SATURDAY
August 5, 2023

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COMMOTION HOUR
Opposition continues protest over Manipur
NEWS » PAGE 12

SHAKEN HILLS
Uttarakhand landslip claims 3 lives
NEWS » PAGE 14

ON HOLD
DGFT suspends laptop import curbs till Nov. 1
BUSINESS » PAGE 16

SPILLOVER EFFECT
Communal riots cast shadow on Millennium City
Clashes widen distrust between communities
GROUND ZERO » PAGE 11

HONOURS EVEN
India and Japan play out a draw
SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

'Those misusing BPL cards will face action'

BENGALURU
Close on the heels of enhancing benefits under the free rice scheme of Anna Bhagya, the government is set to weed out ineligible beneficiaries by initiating measures against well-to-do people who are misusing the scheme by getting BPL ration cards. » PAGE 8

Severe drinking water crisis in 110 villages

BENGALURU
The delay in the onset of monsoons this year has led to severe drinking water crisis in 110 villages on the city's outskirts. » PAGE 2

PROPERTY PLUS » PAGES 4 & 5

SC stays Rahul's conviction for Modi surname remark

It says the Surat court failed to give even one reason for sentencing Cong. leader to two-year jail term that resulted in his disqualification as MP; however, it adds the remark was not in good taste

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the conviction of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case for his 'Modi' surname remark allegedly made at a political rally in Karnataka in 2019.

A three-judge Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai said the Surat Chief Judicial Magistrate, other than severely admonishing Mr. Gandhi for his alleged remark, failed to give even a single reason for serving the Congress leader with the maximum sentence of two years' imprisonment.

The court said the Magistrate had insisted on handing the severest punishment when the penal code allowed a choice between imprisonment and fine or both.

The Gujarat High Court too, while dealing with the various aspects of the case in a "voluminous" 120-page judgment, had somehow skipped addressing the issue of complete lack of reasons for giving Mr. Gandhi the maximum punishment, said the Bench.

It, however, noted that the alleged remark was "not in good taste".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Welcome news: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Friday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

'Reinstate him as fast as he was disqualified'

NEW DELHI
Noting that Rahul Gandhi had been disqualified as MP within 24 hours of conviction, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said his LS membership should be restored with equal speed. » PAGE 13

Wayanad marks court relief with sweets, crackers

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Congress-led United Democratic Front took out marches, distributed sweets and burst firecrackers in Kerala. Wayanad, represented by Rahul Gandhi, was the hub of celebrations. » PAGE 13

Spot study: A team from the Archaeological Survey of India arrives at the Gyanvapi mosque premises in Varanasi on Friday. PTI

SC upholds ASI study at Gyanvapi mosque

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stop the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) from continuing with its "scientific investigation" of the Gyanvapi mosque premises at Varanasi, though it asked the expert body to stick true to its assurance to use only "non-invasive methodology" for its survey. There should not be any excavation on the premises nor any damage to any structure, the court said.

The ASI had already started the survey at Varanasi on Friday by the time the case came up for hearing in Delhi, before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.

On Thursday, the Allahabad High Court had given its nod for the ASI to go ahead with the survey ordered by the Varanasi District Judge on July 21.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
EDITORIAL
» PAGE 10

Govt. slashes engg. course fee hike from 10% to 7%

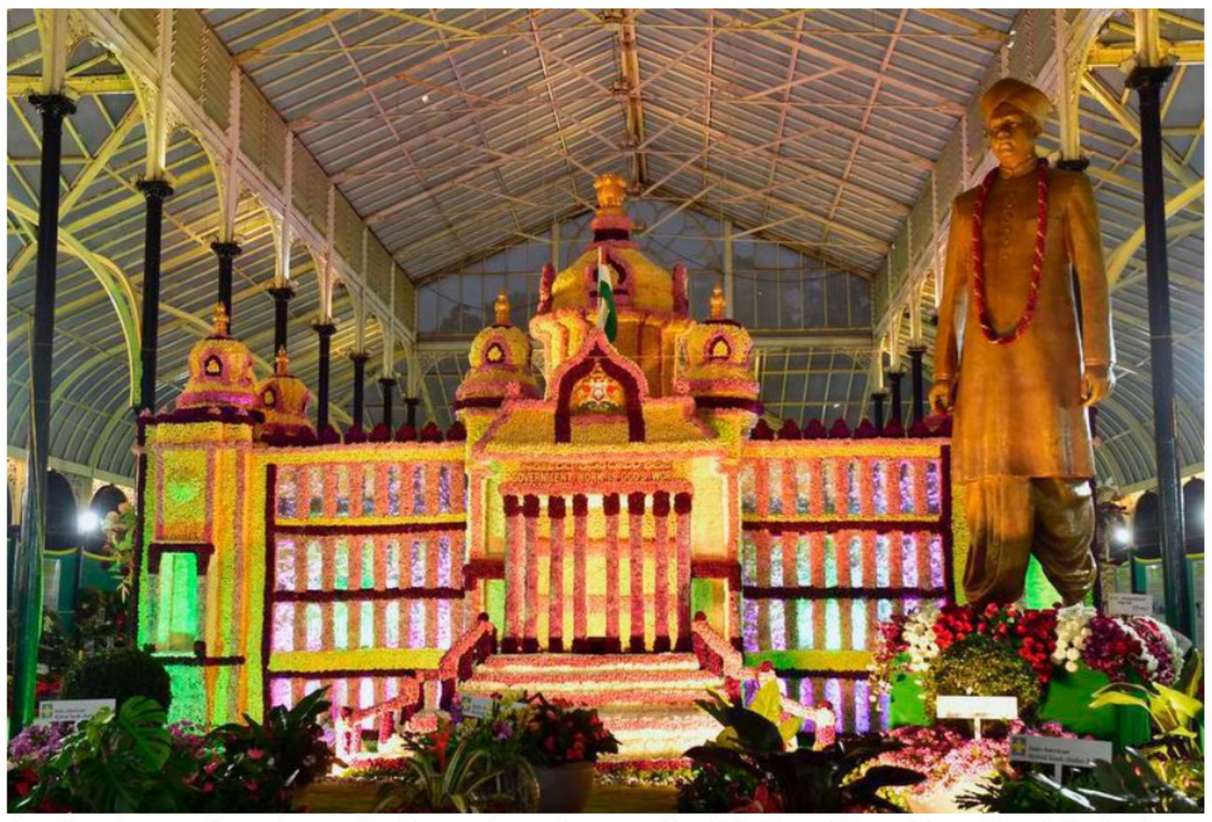
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has reduced the extent of fee hike for engineering courses from 10% to 7% for the academic year 2023-24. The government has withdrawn the earlier order and signed a new consensual agreement with private engineering colleges.

The previous BJP government had increased the engineering course fee by 10% and signed the consensual agreement in February/March, 2023. Recently, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a meeting with Higher Education and Technical Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar and ordered withdrawal of the earlier order.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Sudhakar said: "The Chief Minister had asked for complete withdrawal of 10% hike. But finally we arrived at an increase of 7%."

Arresting



The Independence Day Flower Show at Lalbagh in Bengaluru was inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday. The floral replicas of Vidhana Soudha and of the former Chief Minister Kengal Hanumanthaiya at the Glass House were the cynosure of all eyes. K. MURALI KUMAR

In a step towards BBMP polls, no. of wards reduced to 225; fresh notification issued

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the first step towards holding the long-pending elections for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the State government notified revised ward delimitation for the urban local body on Friday. It came on the day Transport Minister and Bengaluru MLA Ramalinga Reddy announced that elections would be held in December.

Withdrawing the previous notification of 243 wards, the Urban Development Department (UDD) issued a fresh one exercising powers under the BBMP Act, 2020, reducing the number of wards to 225. The earlier delimitation was notified by the then BJP government.

The tenure of the BBMP council concluded in September 2020.

The Congress government had been opposing the delimitation process alleging that it was carved out to favour the saffron party. The BJP government had increased the number of wards from 198 to 243. In June, the High Court granted about 12 weeks' time for the government to redo delimitation.

Although the new notification was issued by the UDD, the department is yet publish the details of the changed ward boundaries. Sources in the BBMP said this is a clear indication that elections for the civic body that was long pending will be held soon. A senior BBMP official said the delimitation committee that was set up by the government recently has finalised the boundaries.

'Polls in December'

Earlier in the day, Mr. Reddy had said the BBMP elections will be held in December this year. After assuming power, the Congress had formed a committee tasked to decide on conducting civic elections. This had Mr. Reddy, along with former Mayors G. Padmavathi and P.R. Ramesh, MLAs N.A. Haris and Priya Krishna, and Ministers Dinesh Gundu Rao, Krishna Byre Gowda, and Byrathi Suresh as members.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Reddy said: "In our indoor meetings, both the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister told us that the BBMP elections will be held by December."

Earlier this year, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar had said that he is in consultation with his legal team over scrutinising the ward delimitation notified by the erstwhile BJP government in the first step towards holding polls for BBMP.

The tenure of the BBMP council concluded on September 10, 2020.

School principal arrested for raping 10-year-old student

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The principal and owner of a private school in Gunjur has been arrested for allegedly raping a 10-year-old girl student on Thursday. He has been booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The victim suffers from dyslexia and is studying in Class 2 in the private school.

Police sources said she was raped by the 65-year-old school principal in an empty classroom on Thursday around 11.30 a.m.

According to the police, the girl who returned from school in the afternoon complained of pain in the abdomen to her mother, who found the girl bleeding from her private parts. The mother immediately rushed the girl to a private hospital, who confirmed sexual abuse and rape of the girl.

Complaint lodged

The police said the girl revealed to the mother that the principal took her to an empty classroom and abused her, after which he gave her a piece of cake asking her not to tell it to anyone.

The mother lodged a complaint with the Varthur police, following which the principal was arrested.

"We have recorded the statement of the victim in which she has clearly said she was abused by the principal. We also have medical records to back it up," S. Girish, DCP (Whitefield) said.

Sources said that the police were also trying to secure the CCTV camera footage from the school for further evidence.

Probe was also on as to whether the accused had abused any other girls in the school in its 13 years of existence.

However, there had been no prior complaints against him.

Water contamination case: With two more deaths, toll goes up to five in Kavadigara Hatti

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

With two more deaths, the toll in the alleged drinking water contamination case at Kavadigara Hatti in Chitradurga has gone up to five. As of Friday afternoon, 160 people were undergoing treatment and 12 had been discharged. Meanwhile, the Lokayukta has taken *suo motu* cognisance of the deaths and issued notices to seven officials, including the Secretary, Urban Development, and the Director of Municipal Administration.

In his order on Friday, Lokayukta B.S. Patil maintained that the right to access drinking water was a fundamental right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. Further, he said: "Prima facie, it indicates that there was failure or negligence on the part of the authorities concerned in providing pure and safe drinking water to residents."

Residents of Kavadigara Hatti in Chitradurga staged a protest against the district administration on the bypass connecting NH 13 and NH 4 on Thursday. SATHISH G.T.

Those who died on Friday were identified as Rudrappa, 50, and Parvathamma, 75. Usha, 25, who was pregnant and also under treatment, gave birth to a stillborn baby on Friday. Residents of the village alleged that this was owing to an illness she developed after consuming contaminated water.

A bulletin released by the Department of Health and Family Welfare stated that so far 177 cases had been reported, including 19 fresh cases on Friday.

The Chitradurga district administration collected samples of water from the locality and the houses of patients. The biological analysis of the samples concluded that the water supplied in the locality was unfit for consumption. However, the chemical analysis did not find traces of poison in the sample.

It is still a mystery as to why only residents of the Old Dalit Colony in the area were affected, when the entire settlement had been getting water from one source– an overhead tank. The local people have raised doubts about the laboratory reports and demanded re-test.

"We are investigating the case. A team of experts from the Health and Family Welfare Department is also probing the issue," Superintendent of Police, Chitradurga, K. Parashuram told *The Hindu*.

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment A. Narayanaswamy visited the locality.

Why did 'Bazball' fail to regain the Ashes?

Up against a great Australian side, England discovered that there is an essential limit to the competitive advantage 'Bazball' offers because it is an approach, for the most part, to batting. And it's bowling that typically wins Test matches and series

Kartikeya Date

'Bazball' is an approach to batting in Test cricket championed by former New Zealand captain and current England head coach Brendon 'Baz' McCullum. It involves taking chances more frequently than is the norm, aiming to score as quickly as possible at the cost of losing wickets more often.

'Bazball' has dominated the conversation in the 2023 Ashes, and in Test cricket more generally. So much so that after the fourth Test at Old Trafford was drawn due to rain, ECB chair Richard Thompson suggested that the rain rules should be modified. Thompson said he would speak to the ICC chair and make him

> As much as they have dominated, say they have dominated certain parts of the game, it still has not been good enough to get their nose in front of the series
>
> **RICKY PONTING**
> Former Australia captain

> We have a certain style we try to exhibit every time we play. That is our best chance of winning... We stayed true to that under the fiercest of pressure
>
> **BRENDON MCCULLUM**
> England head coach

TABLE 1: Average innings totals per 10 wickets pre and post McCullum's appointment

Team	Average Total Per 10 wickets June 2020 to May 2022		Average Total Per 10 wickets June 2022 to August 2023	
	Tests	Score	Tests	Score
Afghanistan	2	**328** in 99.5 overs	1	**137** in 37.5 overs
Australia	12	**359** in 110.0 overs	17	**360** in 103.0 overs
Bangladesh	13	**291** in 96.1 overs	6	**282** in 76.4 overs
England	26	**276** in 90.0 overs	18	**391** in 81.0 overs
India	20	**292** in 93.1 overs	10	**358** in 104.4 overs
Ireland	0	-	4	**259** in 84.2 overs
New Zealand	13	**366** in 115.2 overs	9	**386** in 111.5 overs
Pakistan	16	**338** in 118.3 overs	9	**362** in 110.2 overs
South Africa	13	**291** in 91.4 overs	8	**215** in 70.3 overs
Sri Lanka	14	**316** in 101.5 overs	10	**356** in 102.2 overs
West Indies	18	**254** in 92.4 overs	10	**254** in 87.4 overs
Zimbabwe	5	**239** in 84.0 overs	2	**229** in 76.2 overs

understand that England has "elevated [Test cricket] and reinvented the way [it] has been played."

And yet, Australia retained the Ashes despite losing almost 500 Test wickets worth of quality and experience to injury one and half Tests into the series. Why did 'Bazball' fail to regain the Ashes at home? Part of the answer is that this is a great Australian side led by a fast-bowler who will almost certainly finish as one of Australia's greatest-ever bowlers. The other part of the answer has to do with an essential limit to the competitive advantage 'Bazball' offers because it is an approach, for the most part, to batting.

Test series are typically won by the superior bowling side. This is almost always the one which delivers a higher percentage of deliveries with greater control and quality than the opposition. This requires quality and depth. Having one truly great bowler supported by three or four average bowlers is almost always worse than having three or four very good bowlers. As is shown in Table 2, England has had the better attack in every series since McCullum took the England job, except the 2023 Ashes.

But first, consider the average total per 10 wickets for each team in Test cricket since the start of the Covid pandemic, as shown in Table 1. This period is divided into two parts to highlight the 'Bazball' era record.

The period from July 2020 to May 2022 included two away series for England – India (2021) and Australia (2021-22) – in which the batting conditions were very difficult. If these are excluded, England's average 10-wicket total in 17 pre-'Bazball' Tests starting in July 2020 is 330 all out in 105.0 overs. On those two tours, England averaged 200 all out in 71.0 overs. In the 'Bazball' era, England has averaged 391 in 81.0 overs per 10 wickets – the promised trade-off of quicker runs for more frequent dismissal is evident in this record.

How do we tell which bowling attack is superior? Traditionally, record-keeping in cricket has been limited to measuring outcomes – runs, wickets, wides, no balls and the like. A novel measure devised by ESPNCricinfo considers whether or not the batter is in control of a delivery.

Readers should note that control classifies deliveries – either the batter is in control or not. Edges (inner or outer), plays and misses (or swings and misses), getting hit on the pad, and catches off the bat's middle are considered not-in-control. All not-in-control deliveries are not equally likely to result in dismissal. The control measurement is not an expected dismissal estimate.

The bowler tries to force the batter into a not-in-control response, in ESPNCricinfo's terminology (or a false shot, in cricket parlance). A false shot is more likely when a batter attempts an attacking shot.

Testing the 'Bazball' proposition

The theory behind the 'Bazball' approach is that being less selective about attempting an attacking shot is more efficient than being more selective (i.e. it will produce more runs). Control offers a way to test this proposition. Batters who are defensive – i.e. more selective in their attacking shots – play false shots less often. But they will also score slower. The point of batting, though, is to score runs. If a bowling attack is better than the opposition's attack, it will concede fewer runs per false shot.

As shown in Table 2, in every series in the 'Bazball' era, whether it is the 2022 home season in which England faced New Zealand (3 Tests), India (1 Test) and South Africa (3 Tests), or its tours of Pakistan and New Zealand, England's bowlers conceded fewer runs per false shot than the opposition's. In other words, the English attack was deeper and better than the opposition's in the prevalent conditions, by 19 to 30%.

In the 2023 Ashes, Australia matched England's attack, keeping the host's advantage down to about 6%, despite losing Nathan Lyon midway through the second Test. This is a testament to the quality of the Australian pace attack, even with Pat Cummins losing four out of five tosses.

England managed 3.3 runs per false shot against Australia in this series, while the visitors managed 3.1 runs per false shot. England scored quicker, played false shots more often and also lost wickets more often. The rate at which false shots resulted in dismissal was marginally (6%) lower for England's batters than it was for Australia's. This could be put down to England forcing Australia to place more defensive fields than it normally would.

There is one last piece of this outline explaining why England did not regain the Ashes despite scoring at such speed. 'Bazball' motivates flatter pitches with lesser seam movement. This reduces the effectiveness of England's greatest strength – its battery of seam bowlers.

It is a measure of England's resources that it could call on the express pace of Mark Wood. The 2023 Ashes were Broad and Anderson's most expensive home Ashes series. It was Broad's most expensive Ashes home series since his first in 2009. Anderson's five wickets cost him 85 runs apiece.

Bowlers win Test matches and Test series. It is perhaps not efficient to prepare pitches for batters.

TABLE 2: England's record compared with the opposition it faced in the 'Bazball' era, using ESPNCricinfo's control measurement

HOST	OPPOSITION BATTING							ENGLAND BATTING							
	BF	R	W	NIC	BF PER NIC	R PER NIC	NIC PER W	BF	R	W	NIC	BF PER NIC	R PER NIC	NIC PER W	R PER NIC DIFF (ENG-OPP) (%)
2022 England	9415	5261	179	1839	5.12	2.86	10.3	6670	5120	128	1475	4.52	3.47	11.5	21.30%
New Zealand	2065	1124	40	344	6	3.27	8.6	1762	1390	37	327	5.39	4.25	8.8	30.10%
Pakistan	3425	1897	60	388	8.83	4.89	6.5	2179	2001	49	344	6.33	5.82	7	19.00%
2023 Ashes	5221	3010	93	962	5.43	3.13	10.3	3893	3079	85	930	4.19	3.31	10.9	5.80%

NIC - Batter Not In Control; BF - Balls Faced; R - Runs Scored; W: Dismissals

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	20	9,225	17
2	Novak Djokovic	36	8,795	17
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	6,520	23
4	Casper Ruud	24	4,985	24
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	4,850	22
6	Holger Rune	20	4,825	23
7	Andrey Rublev	25	4,730	26
8	Jannik Sinner	21	3,815	22
9	Taylor Fritz	25	3,515	26
10	Frances Tiafoe	25	3,085	22
11	Karen Khachanov	27	2,945	20
12	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	2,770	22
13	Cameron Norrie	27	2,610	23
14	Tommy Paul	26	2,320	25
15	Alexander Zverev	26	2,265	22

Top Indians ▸

Sumit Nagal
Rank 179 ▼ 1 spot

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 345 ▲ 1 spot

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	9,490	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	8,845	18
3	Elena Rybakina	24	5,465	21
4	Jessica Pegula	29	5,395	19
5	Ons Jabeur	28	4,846	18
6	Caroline Garcia	29	4,685	23
7	Coco Gauff	19	3,390	20
8	Petra Kvitova	33	3,341	16
9	Maria Sakkari	28	3,310	23
10	Marketa Vondrousova	24	3,106	15
11	Daria Kasatkina	26	3,015	26
12	Barbora Krejcikova	27	2,840	20
13	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,745	24
14	Veronika Kudermetova	26	2,570	23
15	Belinda Bencic	26	2,560	18

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 196 ▲ 4 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 206 ▲ 4 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	314	10
2	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	189	2
3	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	149	0
4	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	148	0
5	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	99	0
6	George Russell	Mercedes	99	0
7	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	92	0
8	Lando Norris	McLaren	69	0
9	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	47	0
10	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	35	0
11	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	34	0
12	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	22	0
13	Alex Albon	Williams	11	0
14	Nico Hulkenberg	Haas	9	0
15	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	5	0
16	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	4	0
17	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	3	0
18	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	2	0
19	Logan Sargeant	Williams	0	0
20	Daniel Ricciardo	AlphaTauri	0	0

Max Verstappen

Sergio Perez

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	Red Bull	503	12
2	Mercedes	247	0
3	Aston Martin	196	0
4	Ferrari	191	0
5	McLaren	103	0
6	Alpine	57	0
7	Williams	11	0
8	Haas	11	0
9	Alfa Romeo	9	0
10	AlphaTauri	3	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Viktor Axelsen	107,305	13
2	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	87,211	16
3	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	77,778	16
4	Kodai Naraoka	76,915	21
5	Jonatan Christie	72,571	14
6	Li Shi Feng	71,448	20
7	Loh Kean Yew	71,262	19
8	Shi Yu Qi	70,524	19
9	Prannoy H. S.	66,957	18
10	Chou Tien Chen	64,077	20
11	Lakshya Sen	59,581	19
12	Anders Antonsen	57,110	14
13	Lu Guang Zu	55,510	18
14	Kenta Nishimoto	55,027	21
15	Lee Cheuk Yiu	54,984	21

Top Indians ▸

Prannoy H. S.
Rank 9

Lakshya Sen
Rank 11

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	103,914	15
2	Akane Yamaguchi	101,917	16
3	Chen Yu Fei	92,116	14
4	Tai Tzu Ying	89,286	13
5	He Bing Jiao	83,274	16
6	Carolina Marin	76,890	16
7	Ratchanok Intanon	66,103	16
8	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	64,661	20
9	Han Yue	62,730	19
10	Wang Zhi Yi	56,670	16
11	Pornpawee Chochuwong	55,729	19
12	Beiwen Zhang	55,725	20
13	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	53,444	13
14	Michelle Li	52,711	19
15	Mia Blichfeldt	49,759	18

Top Indians ▸

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 17

Saina Nehwal
Rank 38

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	883	919
2	Joe Root	859	923
3	Steve Smith	842	947
4	Babar Azam	829	882
5	Marnus Labuschagne	826	937
6	Travis Head	818	884
7	Usman Khawaja	796	847
8	Daryl Mitchell	792	800
9	Harry Brook	773	773
10	Rohit Sharma	759	813

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	879	904
2	Kagiso Rabada	825	902
3	Ravindra Jadeja	782	899
4	Stuart Broad	776	880
5	Pat Cummins	775	914
6	Shaheen Afridi	762	836
6	Ollie Robinson	762	820
8	James Anderson	761	903
9	Nathan Lyon	760	799
10	Jasprit Bumrah	756	835

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	886	898
2	Rassie van der Dussen	777	796
3	Fakhar Zaman	755	784
4	Imam-ul-Haq	745	815
5	Harry Tector	726	726
5	David Warner	726	880
7	Shubman Gill	724	738
8	Quinton de Kock	718	813
9	Virat Kohli	712	911
10	Steve Smith	702	752

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Josh Hazlewood	705	733
2	Mitchell Starc	686	783
3	Rashid Khan	682	806
4	Mohammed Siraj	677	736
5	Matt Henry	667	691
6	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	661	712
7	Trent Boult	660	775
8	Adam Zampa	652	655
9	Shaheen Afridi	630	688
10	Shakib Al Hasan	618	717

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	906	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	811	875
3	Babar Azam	756	896
4	Aiden Markram	748	796
5	Rilee Rossouw	724	724
6	Muhammad Waseem	716	716
7	Devon Conway	709	831
8	Dawid Malan	705	915
9	Aaron Finch	680	900
10	Jos Buttler	670	674

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	713	816
2	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
3	Wanindu Hasaranga	686	797
4	Maheesh Theekshana	684	684
4	Adil Rashid	684	746
6	Adam Zampa	678	743
7	Fazalhaq Farooqi	677	692
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	676	745
9	Sam Curran	673	688
10	Anrich Nortje	667	695

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Drinking water crisis in 110 villages on the city outskirts

BBMP to drill borewells in the villages to address the shortage; delay in onset of monsoon reason

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The delay in the onset of monsoons this year has led to severe drinking water crisis in 110 villages on the city's outskirts, and the recent rains are yet to have an impact on the ground water table. As a result, many borewells in these villages have gone dry and are under repair.

The city's civic body has decided to drill additional borewells in these villages to solve the drinking water crisis in these villages. This comes even as Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is all set to miss another deadline for completion of the Cauvery V Stage.

The problem comes even as the BWSSB will miss another deadline for completion of the Cauvery V Stage.

Water tankers

"The drinking water situation has worsened in the 110 villages. Most of us are dependent on water tankers paying up hefty prices. Many borewells are dry. The poor are unable to bear the cost of tanker water and the civic body is doing little to help better the situation," said Jagadish Reddy, of Varthur village.

Rakesh Kumar, a water tanker businessman from Bangalore South assembly constituency, said compared to the last two years, demand for tanker water had shot up over the last two months and the prices have also gone up marginally. A 12,000-litre tanker load now costs up to ₹1500 while a 6,000-litre tanker load costs ₹900, the same tanker loads cost ₹1200 and ₹750 respectively, three months ago.

To address the situation, BBMP has earmarked ₹5 crore for supplying water through tankers to some of these pockets where the poor live, it has earmarked another ₹5 crore for drilling new borewells. "We have asked the zones to do a survey of the gaps in water supply in 110 villages, the only area in the city where the civic body is still responsible for providing drinking water. We will drill new borewells in these villages as per requirement. This will be a medium-term solution and in the short term, I have directed officials to provide water in tankers and we have earmarked ₹5 crore for the same," Chief Civic Commissioner, Tushar Giri Nath said.

However, many residents of these villages complain that the water being provided in tankers is not only insufficient, but also marred by partisanship. "There is no record of per capita water distribution. You need to be politically influential and side with the local MLA to get this water," Mr. Reddy said, adding completion of Cauvery V Stage was the only sustainable long term solution. "It has been 16 years since we joined BBMP and still the city is yet to give us drinking water," he said.

Missed deadline

Cauvery V Stage was set to be completed by October 2023. However, N. Jayaram, Chairman, BWSSB said there have been some delays due to change in alignment in Kanakapura town, which had to be approved by the union government as it passed through national highway and a contractor was underperforming. "We are mulling giving the contractor a notice, and if need be change the contractor," he said, adding they were working towards a year end deadline.

BBMP official arrested for accepting bribe from builder to issue 'khata'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lokayukta police arrested a civic official after allegedly catching him red-handed accepting a bribe of ₹5 lakh to issue 'khatas' to flats in an apartment on Friday morning.

The arrested have been identified as Nataraj, Revenue Inspector, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Mahadevapura Zone, Bengaluru, and Pavan, a private person who collected the bribe money and handed over to Mr. Nataraj.

Manjunath, of Mukunda Developers, Kodigehalli had complained to Lokayukta Police that Nataraj had demanded a bribe of ₹10,000 to issue a 'khata' for each of the 79 flats of Brindavan Apartments, totalling to ₹7.9 lakh and had demanded an advance of ₹5 lakh before the work and the rest to be paid after the 'khatas' were issued.

Trap laid

Acting on the complaint, Lokayukta police laid a trap and arrested Nataraj after the complainant handed over ₹5 lakh bribe money to a private person Pavan, who in turn handed it over to Nataraj in Mahadevapura zonal office of the civic body.

The complaint said Nataraj had sought bribe of ₹10,000 to issue a 'khata' for each of the 79 flats of Brindavan Apartments, totalling to ₹7.9 lakh and had demanded an advance of ₹5 lakh

Following the arrest, Lokayukta Police officials raided the residence in Girinagar of Mr. Nataraj and found 900 grams of gold ornaments, 7 kg of silver articles, 4 cars, ₹80,000 and documents of a 40X60 site in his wife's name in Kodigehalli.

45 offices surveyed

The trap and raid comes a day after Karnataka Lokayukta conducted a survey at 45 BBMP offices in the city, on Thursday evening.

Lokayukta B.S. Patil himself visited two Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike offices and found several irregularities.

Youth drowns at SAI facility on university campus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 26-year old youth who had come visiting to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) facility within the Bangalore University's Jnanabharathi campus on Friday afternoon drowned in the swimming pool.

The deceased has been identified as Anup Kumar Gupta, 26, a resident of North-West Delhi. He had come to the SAI facility on Friday afternoon with his friends Manish Kumar and Abdul Gani, who works with a firm which had a maintenance contract with SAI Bengaluru.

Anup Kumar Gupta had come seeking a house keeping job at the facility, said the police.

Accidental fall

While the three friends were on the campus, the deceased accidentally fell into the facility's swimming pool and drowned to death, as efforts to pull him out of the water failed.

Jnanabharathi police have registered a case of unnatural death and are further probing the case.

They have recovered the CCTV footage of the swimming pool area and are ascertaining the sequence of events that led to the unfortunate incident.

Disruption in power supply tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on Sunday, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. due to quarterly maintenance work.

According to BESOM, the areas that will be affected are 66/11 kV Jigani: Jigani, Kallubalu, Haragadde, Madapattana, Gollahally, Konasandra and surrounding areas.

4 officials of Whitefield CEN police station suspended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four police officials of Whitefield Cyber Crime, Economic Offences and Narcotics (CEN) police station including its inspector, who now have a FIR in Kerala over bribery allegations, have been suspended from service pending inquiry. City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda suspended them from service Thursday night, sources said.

Whitefield CEN police station Inspector Shivaprakash and three other personnel attached with the station - head constables Vijay Kumar and Shivani, and constable Sandesh, all of whom are suspended now, had been to Kerala to investigate a cyber crime case involving cryptocurrency.

They tracked down alleged suspects Naushad, Nikhil, and Akhil and allegedly demanded ₹4 lakh bribe to let them go from the case.

However, they complained to the local police, who registered an FIR against the four police officials, interrogated them and let them go on the condition that they appear for inquiry when called.

Water-tank crash at Shivajinagar: BBMP seeks report from engineers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike East Zonal Commissioner (in-charge), K.V. Trilok Chandra has sought a report from engineers after the water tank from a four-storey building came crashing down, killing three people in Shivajinagar on the night of Wednesday.

The police who are probing the case informed the civic body to inspect the condition of the building and foundation of the tank.

A team of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike engineers have been asked to visit the site. Mr. Chandra talking to *The Hindu* said he has directed the engineers to inspect the building to check for any violations and submit a report on the same.

He said action will be initiated if there were any building bylaw violations.

Carpenter killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A carpenter was killed in a hit-and-run accident when a speeding car rammed into his bike from behind near R.R. Nagar on Thursday evening and fled from the scene without stopping to check on him.

The deceased has been identified as Babutaram, 40, from Rajasthan and lived in Channasandra in the city. On Thursday evening at around 4:30 pm, while he was riding his bike near Rakshith Farm, R.R. Nagar IV Phase, going home after work, a speeding SUV rammed into his bike from behind.

As he fell due to the impact of the collision he suffered severe head injuries and was killed on the spot. However, the SUV driver did not stop and fled from the scene.

Man making bombs to kill pigs injured in accidental blast at home at Harohalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A man who makes crude bombs was injured in a blast in his house on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thrusday. While he was undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a private hospital in Bengaluru, he was booked under the Arms Act, 1959, and arrested.

Accidental explosion

The accused, Sachin, 26, is a resident of Harohalli, near Kanakapura. He suffered severe injuries to his arms, face, head and chest when a bomb accidentally exploded in his hand in his house, around 8.30 a.m. on August 3, sources said.

A senior police officer said, "Doctors are trying to save him. They have said that chances of his survival can be determined only after 48 hours." Sachin's house was damaged in the accidental blast.

'Pig bomb'

Animal rights activists allege that he is a notorious in the area as a 'pig bomb' maker, and his bombs have killed many animals, including sloth bears. However, Sachin is not named in any case with regard to killing animals.

He allegedly makes bombs, called pig bombs in local parlance, that are used to kill animals that stray into agriculture land.

The crude bombs are wrapped in food, which attracts the animals. When they bite, the bomb explodes in the mouth of the animal, killing them instantly.

Sources claim that sloth bears are killed using these crude bombs in the Kanakapura area, which is close to a forest.

Symposium on handmade fabric

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A symposium on handmade fabric for an Earth-friendly future is being organised by the Ragi Kana, the Cultural Hub, Weekend Santhe and Discussion Forum on Sunday.

Dr. Bhargavi Rao and Leo Saldanha of Environment Support Group, Sharada Ganesh, Trustee- Desi, and Converner of All India Federation of Handloom Organisations, and activist Vrunda Shekhar will lead a discussion related to critical issues on Handloom development. Handloom fabric and garments will be displayed on exhibition and sale.

The event will be held on its premises in Sri Ramakrishna Samagra Shikshana Kendra School Campus, Off Bannerghatta Road, near Decathlon sports shop, Gottigere, from 11 a.m.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIKITHA, W/O Nishchal Amruthur Narayan, R/O B–504, NCC Nagarjuna Premises Aprt, 6th Phase, JP Nagar, Blr–78, have Changed my Name As Nikitha Nishchal vide afdvt dtd 01/08/23

I, VC Vishraanth (New Name), S/o (Late) Kondiah and Jayamma, R/at #95, G.F. Kannur Lane, Kannur, Bengaluru 562149 have changed my name from Raghu.K to VC Vishraanth vide affidavit dtd 03.08.2023 sworn before Notary A.Gerard, Bluru.

I, PARASMAL Jain Mamatha Kumari, r/at Flat no.301, Diva Apt, No.26, National High School Road, VV Puram, Bengaluru-560004 have changed my name as Mamatha Durgani vide affidavit dtd 29.07.2023 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bluru

I, Atul Kumar S/o Surender Pal, residing at G1702, Nikoo Homes 2, Bhartiya City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560064, have changed my name to Atul Mittal for all purposes in future

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Varsharani W/O, Sanjaykumar Jagadi. R/o 8/1/6, Near Mahadev Temple Main Road Aland Tq- Aland, Dist- Gulbarga, Karnataka have changed my name to Varsharani Jagadi for all purposes.

I, RAMU Vijaya Vishu, r/at No.82, 16th Cross, Lakkasandra, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru-560030 have changed my name as Ramu Vijaya vide affidavit dtd 03.08.2023 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bluru

I, EESHAAN Srinivasa Reddy, R/at No.147/J, 12th Main Road, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore 560034 have changed my name as Eeshaan Srinivas Reddy vide affidavit dtd 03.08.2023 sworn before Notary Jayappa. A, Blore

I, CHITRASHREE daughter of Srinivasan (Late) R/o H No.103, Kadirappa Road, 5th Cross, Cox Town, Bengaluru-560005 have changed my name from Chitrashree to S Chitrashree vide affidavit dated 3rd August 2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHITRASHREE legal sister of Manas resident of H No.103, Kadirappa Road, 5th Cross, Cox Town, Bengaluru-560005 have changed my minor Brother's name from Manas to S Manas Yadav vide affidavit dated 3rd August 2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

SITUATION VACANT

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 73rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 74)
O.S. NO: 25400/2022
BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road,
Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Promodh G, Aged about 45 years S/o. Gurumallappa
...PLAINTIFF
AND
1.MS.NIRMALA M
D/o Mr.Muni Narayana,
Aged 52 years, 9th Cross,
Weavers Colony, Gottigere,
Bannerghata Road,
Bangalore- 560083.
...DEFENDANT
Summons to Defendants
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,86,614.57 (Rupees Five Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Six Hundred and Fourteen and Paisa Fifty Seven Only)** apart from future interest of **8.40%** in **O.S. NO. 25400/2022**and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-74,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **08th** day of **September, 2023** at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **01th** day of **August, 2023.**
By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar City Civil Court Mayohall BENGALURU- 560 001.
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No.11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE

Before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Vatakara
OP (MV) 1040/2021
Sarang ***: Petitioner***
Siddiq Basha & Others***: Respondents***
Siddiq Basha, Aged 41 years, S/o.Majbool, No.7, RC Complex, S.G.Muttroad, Bangalore, Kodavoor Village, Malpe PO, Udupi (Taluk), Karnataka – 576108
: Respondent No.1
That the above case is posted to 02.09.2023 for the appearance of respondent No.1 otherwise he will be set exparte by the Hon'ble Court.
(Sd/-) **A. Hareesh**
Advocate for Petitioner

IN THE COURT OF ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 29)
O.S. NO. 25162/2023
BETWEEN:
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road,
Bangalore-560001.
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Ms. Mansi Singh,
Aged about 24 years,
D/o. Mr. Anil Kumar Singh
AND :
Mr. CHETAN M J
S/o. Jayarudrappa
Aged Major No. 27, 1st Cross, 2nd Main Road, RHCS Layout, Annapoorneshwari Nagar Abhavi Venkateshwara Conventional Hall,
Bangalore- 560091.
Summons to Defendant
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 8,05,688.85/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Eight and Paisa Eighty Five Only)** apart from future interest of 8.70% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25162/2023** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 21,** Before Addl., City Civil Court. Mayo hall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 12th day of September, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 25th day of July, 2023.
By Order of Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall Bengaluru- 560001
FX & Co. ADVOCATE New No. 9 Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560005

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General Manager (P&A), ANIIDCO

India's young archers battle adversity to hit the target

The medal haul at the recent World Youth Championships proved that the juniors can beat the best in difficult conditions. The challenge for the country's archery system now is to ensure that these youngsters realise their full potential at the highest level

Y.B. Sarangi

In the harshest of conditions and toughest of fields at the World Youth Championships, featuring under-18 and under-21 competitions, in Limerick, Ireland, last month, Indian archers collected the highest number of medals (11) to paint a bright picture of the future.

India's tally, including three gold medals apiece in the individual and team events, reduced by four medals in comparison with the previous edition in Wroclaw two years ago, but the archers' consistency despite the increased odds speaks of the quality of the country's youngsters.

Even though Russia (which won four medals in 2021) was absent in Limerick, the field became a lot tougher because of the entry of countries such as powerhouse Korea (which topped the table with 11 medals including six gold, four silver and one bronze), China (four), Great Britain (three) and Chinese Taipei (two).

Against the odds

"This time the performance came in very adverse conditions. It was chilly, raining and windy, but we did very well. Last time China and Korea, two major contenders, were not there. Despite that we had the highest number of medals. The gold against Korea [Parth Salunkhe beat Injun Song to win the under-21 recurve men's individual title] was special," said Sanjeeva Singh, the Indian team's high performance director.

Salunkhe, who had claimed a mixed team gold and men's team gold in 2021, was delighted with his individual crown. "I worked on my approach – physically and mentally. I noticed that archers from successful countries such as Korea and China were focusing on their roots. So I tried going to our roots and practised yoga and meditation. Archery is a mental sport and we always lagged [in terms of] focusing and controlling our heartbeat. Yoga and meditation help one in clear thinking and focusing," said Salunkhe, who recovered from a shoulder issue last year.

"The individual gold has given me a lot of confidence. While Paris 2024 remains on my radar, my main target is the 2028 Olympics. I want to win not just an Olympic medal, but an Olympic gold medal. I need to overcome my weaknesses and build my game gradually to that level."

India's recurve archers winning four out of the 11 medals was a morale booster (as recurve is part of the Olympics). The bronze medals claimed by Bhajan Kaur (under-21 women's individual), the under-21 mixed team (Ridhi Phor and Salunkhe) and the under-18 men's team (Agastya Singh, Ujjwal Dhama and Goldi Mishra) added to Salunkhe's gold.

India is comparatively stronger in compound archery. It was noticeable in Limerick as well. Priyansh (under-21 men's individual), Aditi Swami (under-18 women's individual), the under-21 mixed team (Avneet Kaur, Priyansh), the under-21 women's team (Avneet, Parneet Kaur and Pragati) and the under-18 women's team (Ekta Rani, Aishwarya Sharma and Aditi) claimed gold medals, while the under-18 men's team (Pawan Gat, Manav Jadhao, T. Ganesh Mani Ratnam) took the lone silver. Aishwarya and Jadhao picked up the mixed team bronze.

Seventeen-year-old Aditi – who hails from Maharashtra's Satara like Salunkhe and Olympian Pravin Jadhav (who is her role model) – excelled amid new challenges to win the under-18 crown on the back of her World Record score (711 out of 720 points) in the World Cup Stage-3 in mid-June and underlined her status as the new wonder girl of Indian archery.

"In Ireland it was really difficult. Since my body-weight is less, I could not control myself because of the strong wind. Taking aim was difficult. I overcame this by shooting fast and relying on self-belief. My personal coach Pravin Sawant's presence also helped. I learnt how to judge the conditions and not to repeat mistakes," said Aditi, who won a historic team gold at the World Championships in Berlin on Friday.

Delhi lad Priyansh relied on his sound game and cool temperament to corner glory in his second World youth outing. "In Ireland, we had testing conditions. We accepted the conditions and didn't bother about them. We were prepared to face such conditions. We just focused on our shooting," said Priyansh, who has gained from training alongside the experienced Abhishek Verma at the Yamuna Sports Complex.

"Competing with the senior athletes in domestic events helps. In compound, the competition is so tough that by the time one reaches the international stage one becomes used to shooting in top class events and doesn't feel the pressure. Today, in National events, around 20 archers shoot 700-plus scores. In 2021, three or four used to log 700-plus scores," added Priyansh.

Stress-testing talent

Sanjeeva provides some perspective on pitting younger athletes against experienced ones at the elite level and giving them sufficient competitive opportunities, nationally and internationally. He feels it prepares war-ready archers.

"A domestic circuit, infrastructure, equipment, advanced training with foreign experts and international exposure are the five pillars we are working on. That's why we are able to perform and create bench strength. If you look at the World Championships, the best part was the bench strength.

"Our juniors, who are in the elite team, went back to junior competitions and won medals. The juniors, who replaced the seniors, have done well. Prathamesh [Jawkar] beat [World No.1] Mike Schloesser [on route to gold in the World Cup Stage-2 in Shanghai]. Aditi created a World Record.

"We are looking at the current seniors for the 2024 Olympics and at the youngsters for the 2028 and 2032 Olympics. The mushrooming of centres, including State-sponsored, private-sponsored, individually developed ones and National Centres of Excellence, is boosting the supply line," said Sanjeeva.

The Arjuna and Dronacharya awardee said tweaking the selection trials also played its part. "The selection process has been modified on the lines of the World Cups and World Championships. Our focus is on elimination rounds. We have created more one-on-one matches. We are giving points for consistency. All this ensures that the team that is selected is the best and gives results."

Besides, there is a two-pronged strategy to get rid of the habit of shooting slow, said Sanjeeva.

"We are working with the foreign coaches on the technical side and pushing the archers to shoot fast. In windy conditions, if you are able to shoot fast, then you can get good results. In windy conditions, your bow hand will move, your aim will shift and you will not be able to control the shots.

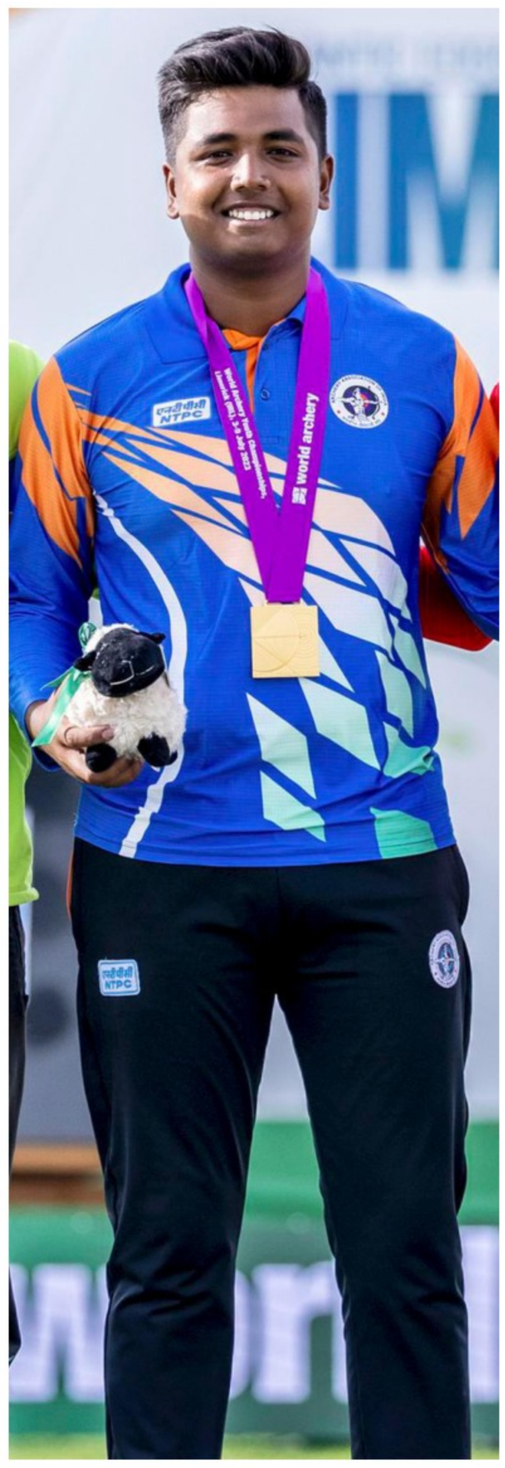
"Now Indian archers are shooting boldly and confidently. That is happening not just at the senior level, but at junior and youth levels.

"The coaches have understood this through seminars. The basic coaching system is stabilising. All the coaches are getting similar knowledge," said Sanjeeva.

The signs are positive, but the biggest challenge in the years to come will be helping the promising ones to produce consistent results at the highest level and maintaining the health of the development programme.

> I noticed that archers from successful countries such as Korea and China were focusing on their roots. So I tried going to our roots and practised yoga and meditation
>
> **PARTH SALUNKHE**
> World under-21 recurve champion

> Since my body-weight is less, I could not control myself because of the strong wind [in Limerick]. Taking aim was difficult. I overcame this by shooting fast and relying on self-belief
>
> **ADITI SWAMI**
> World under-18 compound champion



> We accepted the conditions [in Limerick] and didn't bother about them. We were prepared to face such conditions. We just focused on our shooting
>
> **PRIYANSH**
> World under-21 compound champion

GAME THEORY

Ledecky has the Worlds at her feet

Katie Ledecky created history at the World Aquatics Championships which concluded last weekend in Fukuoka, Japan. She won her 16th individual world title, breaking a tie with Michael Phelps for the most gold medals (individual events) at the Worlds. Phelps still holds the record for the most gold overall

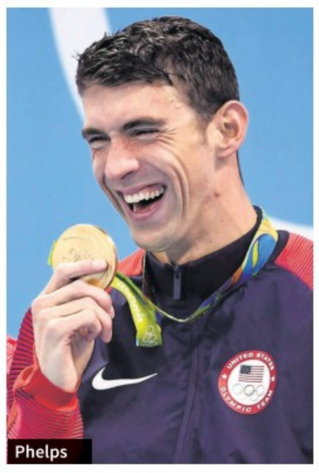
MOST GOLD MEDALS IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Swimmer	Country	Gender	Span	Gold
Katie Ledecky	United States	F	2013-2023	16
Michael Phelps	United States	M	2001-2011	15
Sarah Sjostrom	Sweden	F	2009-2023	12
Sun Yang	China	M	2009-2019	11
Ryan Lochte	United States	M	2005-2015	10
Katinka Hosszu	Hungary	F	2009-2019	9
Caeleb Dressel	United States	M	2017-2022	8
Grant Hackett	Australia	M	1998-2007	7
Ana Marcela Cunha	Brazil	F	2011-2023	7
Aaron Peirsol	United States	M	2001-2009	7

Ledecky

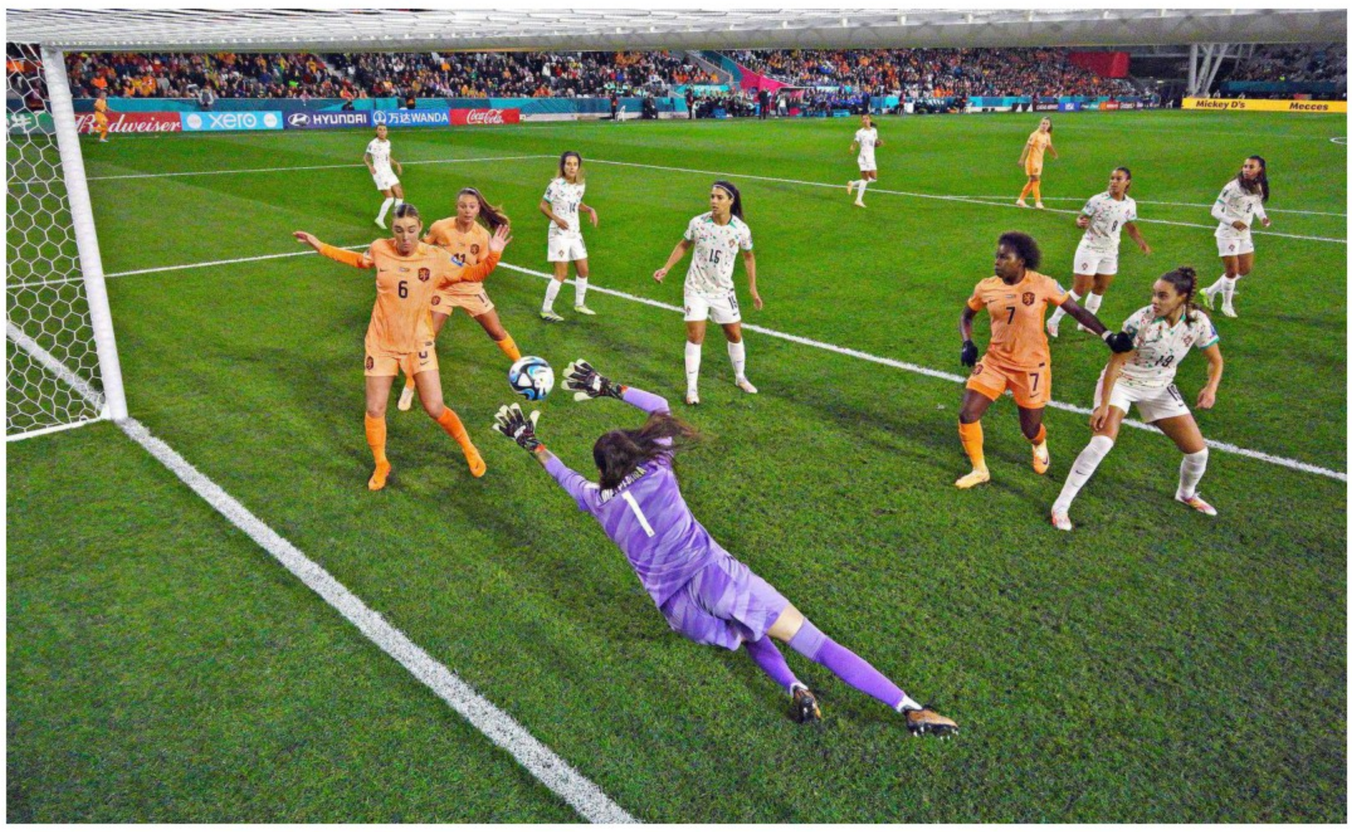
MOST GOLD MEDALS OVERALL

Swimmer	Country	Gender	Span	Gold
Michael Phelps	United States	M	2001-2011	26 **
Katie Ledecky	United States	F	2013-2023	21
Ryan Lochte	United States	M	2005-2015	18 *
Caeleb Dressel	United States	M	2017-2022	15
Sarah Sjostrom	Sweden	F	2009-2023	12
Simone Manuel	United States	F	2013-2019	11 *
Missy Franklin	United States	F	2011-2015	11
Sun Yang	China	M	2009-2019	11
Lilly King	United States	F	2017-2023	11 *
Ian Thorpe	Australia	M	1998-2003	11


Phelps

** - includes two medals in relays where the swimmer participated only in heats
* - includes one medal in relays where the swimmer participated only in heats

PICTURE THIS



Big-stage flight

In this photograph, taken by a remote camera from inside the goal, Portugal's Ines Pereira does her best to stop the Netherlands from scoring — the goalkeeper's effort proved in vain, however — during the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup being held in Australia and New Zealand.

This year's event is the tournament's ninth edition and the first instance of it having more than one host nation.

It's also the first World Cup to be held across multiple confederations — with Australia in the Asian confederation and New Zealand in Oceania.

The 2023 edition — the first to feature the expanded format of 32 teams from the previous 24, replicating the one used for the Men's World Cup from 1998 to 2022 — will end on the 20th of this month with the final, which will be played at the Sydney Olympic Stadium.

The United States is the defending champion.

Having triumphed back to back in 2015 and 2019, in addition to its victories in 1991 and 1999, it is the most successful country in the tournament's history.

Germany (twice), Norway and Japan are the other winners.

SATURDAY
August 5, 2023

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13 villas in Rainbow Drive Layout face demolition after HC order

A resident says the builder has to pay compensation to those whose houses will be lost as it was he who had sold the plot

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

As many as 13 villas in Rainbow Drive Layout (RBD), an upscale gated community off Sarjapur road, face demolition as the High Court has ordered the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and revenue authorities to take action against encroachments. The order was passed on July 27.

The order was passed after hearing the petition that was filed by residents who objected to BBMP's action of constructing a drain in front of their homes. In the same petition, a few other residents whose houses were built on the Storm-Water Drain (SWD) were also impleaded.

BBMP says High Court order allows them to demolish villas that have encroached on the storm water drain at Rainbow Layout in Bengaluru.

The court had earlier asked the government to conduct an Assistant Director of Land Record (ADLR) survey of the rajakaluve after issuing notices to residents and submitting a report. The report found SWD encroachment.

The court order said, "The apprehension of the petitioners herein was that without affording an opportunity of hearing, the officers of the respondent authorities (BBMP) may proceed to demolish the buildings. However, now that the course of the stormwater drain has been identified by the revenue authorities and the officer of the BBMP, they are to take action in consonance with revenue authorities."

The order further said: "Consequently, the writ petition stands disposed of recording the report submitted by the tahsildar and action will be taken only in terms of the report and will not affect any of the residents of the layout whose properties and buildings do not fall within the course of the stormwater drain." A resident of RBD said this is a victory for truth as the developer of the layout made plots encroaching SWD, but also said it is unfortunate that residents who built homes on the SWD have to bear the brunt of it.

A resident said the builder has to pay compensation to those whose houses will be lost as he had sold the plot keeping them in dark about encroachment.

BBMP to act

Mahadevapura Zonal Commissioner, Trilok Chandra said he will direct officials to issue notices to vacate houses to carry out demolition. He said the BBMP will not resort to any delay in taking action.

Veena concert by Visweswaran today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Swara Sourabha, as part of the Sri R.R. Keshavamurthy Music Festival titled Gurusmruthii celebrating Music will present a veena concert by nonagenarian Prof. Dr. R. Visweswaran on Saturday along with Sri R.R. Keshavamurthy Foundation.Sadhana Acharya award will be presented to Prof. Visweswaran. The programme will be held in Havyaka Sabha, Malleswaram, from 5 p.m.

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International Students' Day at St. Joseph's University

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The International Students' Day organized by the office of International Affairs, St. Joseph's University in collaboration with Federation of International Student Associations - Bengaluru will be held on Sunday. Cultural evening presented by the International Student groups from about 15 countries at the SJI Auditorium, from 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Police book *suo motu* case against VHP leaders

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Udupi town police have registered a *suo motu* case against the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) State secretary Sharan Pumpwell and VHP's Udupi district secretary Dinesh Mendon on the charge of making provocative speeches during a protest organised by the VHP in Udupi on Thursday.

The VHP had organised the protest to condemn the alleged voyeurism incident in a paramedical college in Udupi.

In his complaint, Udupi Town Police Station sub-inspector Punith Kumar said Mr. Pumpwell delivered a provocative speech asking women to take arms in their hands if they were intimidated. Mr. Mendon's speech too was provocative.

The two have been booked under sections 505 (1) (B&C), and 506 read with 34 of IPC.

The police said the VHP leaders, while seeking permission for the protest, had agreed not to hurt the sentiments of people from other religions.

But in their speeches both the leaders tried to promote enmity between religions.

Meanwhile, addressing media in Udupi on Friday, Karnataka South regional convener of the Bajrang Dal Sunil K.R. said the police took eight days to book three accused girls in the alleged voyeurism case, while Hindutva leaders were booked within hours by registering a *suo motu* case.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, AUG. 05	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:45
RISE 21:55	SET 09:29
SUNDAY, AUG. 06	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:45
RISE 22:36	SET 10:23
MONDAY, AUG. 07	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:44
RISE 23:18	SET 11:18

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	30	20

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm and humid with gusty winds. Night will be pleasant. Thunderstorm may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at some places.

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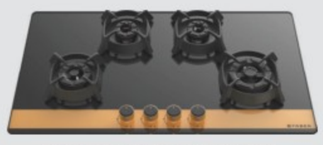

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Young and in real estate

With financial support from venture capital funds and angel investors, young entrepreneurs can be taught to navigate the challenges and complexities of the sector, says Avneesh Sood

COVER

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In the last few decades, the Indian economy has grown manifold, bracing multiple global crises, the latest being the COVID-19 pandemic through 2020 and 2021, says a recent Knight Frank report. Research shows that in the last 10 years, the output from India's construction sector – the second largest employment generator – inclusive of both infrastructure and real estate development and services, has grown at a CAGR of 11%. The construction sector, along with the output generated from real estate services and ownership of dwellings, contributes 18% to the economy's total output. That said, even as the real estate sector embraces technology and innovation, young professionals can bring fresh ideas and perspectives that drive progress and efficiency.

The real estate sector in India holds immense potential for driving economic growth and creating employment opportunities. The industry generates quite a lot for the economy, and it is predicted to be worth $1 trillion by 2030, up from $200 billion in 2021, and to contribute 13% of the country's GDP by 2025. A thriving real estate market stimulates demand in related industries such as construction, manufacturing, and retail, thereby fostering a multiplier effect on the economy. We can leverage the potential of young people to drive innovation, attract investments, and spur economic activity.

Bridging the gap

How does one identify the current skills gap in the Indian real estate sector? According to a survey, 81% of organisations acknowledged encountering a shortage in 'power user or developer' tech skills. The worldwide skills shortfall is expected to reach 85.2 million workers by 2030.

To address this, it is essential to invest in youth education and training programmes. The government, in collaboration with industry stakeholders, can establish initiatives that provide young individuals with access to quality education and vocational training in real estate-related disciplines. Specialised courses and certifications, and programmes that focus on specific areas such as property management, real estate finance, or urban planning would prove useful for young professionals. Recognised certifications would further enhance their credibility and increase their chances of securing a job. Honing their practical and technical skills can be achieved through internships, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training programmes.

Hands-on experience allows young professionals to develop a deeper understanding of the industry, gain practical skills, and build networks within the sector.

Architect using divider compass working on blueprint Engineering tools GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Specialised courses and certifications, and programmes that focus on specific areas such as property management, real estate finance, or urban planning would prove useful

Innovative models

Fostering innovation and creativity is key to the success of the real estate sector.

By encouraging entrepreneurship, we provide a platform for young minds to bring fresh ideas, technologies, and solutions to the industry. This can lead to the development of innovative business models, construction techniques, and sustainable practices that reshape the real estate landscape.

Support and mentorship play a vital role.

Initiatives such as incubators, accelerators, and mentorship programmes can provide guidance, industry expertise, and networking opportunities to aspiring real estate entrepreneurs.

By connecting them with experienced professionals and industry leaders, we can help young entrepreneurs navigate the challenges and complexities of the sector.

Access to financing and resources is critical for startup ventures.

Venture capital funds and angel investors could provide necessary financial support to young entrepreneurs.

Talking of skill sets, whether you choose to specialise in technology, communication, problem-solving, or negotiation, it will come handy in building a promising career in real estate.

As this dynamic industry continues to evolve, staying abreast of emerging trends and continuously developing relevant skills will be essential for success in this exciting field.

The writer is Director, Eros Group.

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BG-BGE

Luxury segment housing sales rise by 130% Y-o-Y in Jan-June'23

Among the leading cities in absolute terms, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, and Hyderabad emerged as prominent markets

HOUSING

CBRE South Asia Treal estate consulting firm, announced the findings of Jan-Jun'23 residential sector data. The findings highlight key trends across various segments in the residential sector across the top 7 cities in India.

The luxury housing segment in India maintained strong sales momentum, registering a 130% Y-o-Y increase in Jan-Jun'23 period. Total sales of luxury units during Jan-Jun'23 period stood at 6900 compared to 3000 units during the same period last year.

Among the leading cities in absolute terms, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, and Hyderabad emerged as prominent markets, combined together accounting for nearly 90% of the total luxury housing sales across top seven cities. Hyderabad recorded the highest percentage increase in sales on a Y-o-Y basis with nearly 14-fold growth with total sales of 1400 units.

This was followed by a nearly six-fold increase in sales in Pune and over three-fold jump in Delhi-NCR on a Y-o-Y basis. In terms of the quantum of sales of luxury residential units, Delhi-NCR topped with sales of 2,900-unit, marking a 205%Y-o-Y increase, followed by Mumbai, which recorded sales of 1,900-units, an 18% Y-o-Y growth, while sales in Kolkata stood at 200 units, a 100%Y-oY increase, and Pune recorded sale of 300-units, registering a 500% Y-o-Y increase during this period.

A similar trend prevailed during the Apr-June'23 quarter in the luxury housing segment across the top cities registering a 121% Y-o-Y increase in sales. The quarter saw total sales of 3100 luxury housing units compared to 1400 units during the same quarter last year. Among the cities, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, and Hyderabad emerged as prominent markets during the quarter, while luxury sales in Hyderabad increased by 20 times, it jumped three-fold in Delhi-NCR.

The surge in demand for luxury housing was primarily driven by a growing preference for enhanced amenities and more spacious living areas. Moreover, it is the aspirational class that has been on an upward trend and driving luxury sales. Besides, the rise in NRI investments in the Indian real estate market has significantly contributed to the heightened demand for luxury properties.

Overall, in the residential sector, during Jan-Jun'23 period, a total of 154,000 units were sold, and over 151,000 new units were launched across all categories. During the Jan-Jun'23 period, sales increased by about 3% compared to the same period a year ago, whereas new launches recorded a growth of 9% Y-o-Y basis, highlighting a substantial rise in the newly launched residential properties compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

Pune, Mumbai, and Bangalore emerged as the leading cities in terms of sales, accounting for an impressive 61% share in total sales in India during Jan-Jun'23.

In terms of total unit launches in India, Mumbai, Pune, and Hyderabad dominated the activity, capturing a significant cumulative share of 65% in Jan-Jun'23. This indicates a strong market dominance by these cities when it comes to introducing new residential projects.

During the Apr-Jun'23 quarter, sale of over 75,000 units, and over 70,000 new unit launches was recorded. Mumbai, Pune, and Hyderabad jointly dominated the market for apartment launches, having a cumulative share of 66%. Pune, Mumbai, Bangalore, and Delhi-NCR accounted for maximum sales in Apr-June '23. Pune led sales, accounting for a 22% share, followed by Mumbai at 20%, Bangalore at 19%, while Delhi-NCR accounted for 15% of the share.

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE-, said, "We are witnessing an impressive growth and resilience of the luxury housing segment, as evident from the data showing a remarkable 130% increase in sales. This surge signifies the strong demand and positive momentum in the luxury housing market."

Residential Outlook:

Despite global macroeconomic headwinds, the residential sector is likely to witness healthy sales momentum due to stabilizing interest rates and the upcoming festive season.

Capital value appreciation trends to remain divergent across cities and micro-markets; stabilizing inflationary trends and healthy wage growth could allow for some appreciation in capital value amid healthy sales momentum.

Projects in the premium / luxury segment would continue to witness healthy traction amidst a spate of new launches; mortgage rates to have a relatively muted impact on demand from this segment.

We expect another year of strong top-line and bottom-line performance by developers, leading to a healthy surplus cash generation and strengthening of balance sheets.

Ongoing / new infrastructure initiatives to boost activity in established micro-markets.

We anticipate a stronger second half of 2023 in the residential market, supported by factors such as a healthy supply pipeline, the approaching festive season, and stabilising mortgage rates.

ANSHUMAN MAGAZINE
Chairman & CEO

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Govt. restores 9,000 dropped seats in engineering courses

'Seats restored subject to the condition that colleges comply with obtaining the necessary no-objection certificate or approval by competent authority'; option entry process for all professional courses to commence on August 5

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has restored around 9,000 seats in engineering courses, which were earlier dropped from the final allotment list. With this decision, the said number of seats will be available for allotment.

S. Ramya, Executive Director of KEA, has stated that the government has restored the seats subject to the condition that the colleges comply with obtaining the necessary no-objection certificate or approval by the competent authority.

A file photo of students writing the entrance test for admissions to professional courses.

Further, she has clarified that the KEA does not have any authority to drop or increase the number of seats and such a decision can be taken only by the government.

Earlier, the decision of excluding around 9,000 seats in over 90 colleges across the State was taken citing reasons of not securing the required no-objection certificate or approval by several colleges.

Option entry

The option entry process for all the professional courses including medical, dental, and engineering will commence from August 5 evening. The last date for option entry is August 9. It has been facilitated to provide option entry simultaneously for all the courses.

Secret key

Such candidates who have completed their offline documents verification process and possess CET-20223 evaluation slips, if they are eligible for getting admitted to medical courses by completing the registration process for UGNEET-2023 should use the same secret key for option entry of medical courses.

Passing-out parade of first batch of 756 Agniveers held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A passing-out parade of the first batch of 756 Agniveers from all arms and services who had been recruited into the Indian Army as part of the Agnipath scheme was held on Friday at the ASC Centre and College.

Commandant of the ASC Centre and College Lt. Gen. B.K. Repswal, who reviewed the parade, said that it was a matter of great pride that the first batch of the Agnieveers who had successfully completed their training with hardwork, dedication, and enthusiasm were finally passing out after 31 weeks of rigorous training and beyond doubt the moment would be recorded in the golden page of the history of the Armed Forces.

Welcoming the Agnieevrs into the Indian Army, Lt. Gen. Repswal asserted that they take oath to serve the great nation with utmost dedication, honesty, integrity and be always ready to sacrifice themselves, if called upon.

He also expressed his admiration for the parents of the Agniveers, acknowledging their contribution to the country and for raising men of honour who are all set to be part of one of the strongest armies in the world.

Drone surveillance at select SSLC exam centres in State

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

To avoid malpractices, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has decided conduct the class 10 final exams (SSLC) under drone surveillance in select centres.

During the SSLC exams of the academic year 2022-23, malpractices were reported, particularly in the North Karnataka region. The department suspended around 60 invigilators and debarred many students. Karnataka has 3,305 centres for the 2023-24 exams – 1,845 cluster centres, 1,354 non-cluster centres and 106 centres for private candidates.

"In the cluster centres, students from many schools will be accommodated. The non-cluster centres are for students from three to four schools. Most of the non-cluster centres are located in the north Karnataka region, and in remote areas. Some anti-social elements and parents misused this opportunity, and were involved in malpractices in the SSLC exams. They throw chits through the window and dictate the answers from outside," said a Block Education Officer (BEO) from north Karnataka region.

To avoid all these illegal activities, the department has decided use drone cameras in the SSLC exams in select non-cluster and sensitive centres in Karnataka. Offenders risk criminal charges.

NEET model dress code

The department has decided to introduce a model dress code, on the lines of the one followed in the NEET (entrance exam for medical courses), for the SSLC exams.

According to the new dress code, students are to wear plainclothes, half-shirts, salwar suits for girls in the examination hall. Wearing jewels and shoes will be restricted.

Another change expected this year is the introduction of version-type question papers. Until now, the same question paper was distributed to all students across Karnataka, leading to mass copying in some centres. Now, versions of question papers, as per the pattern followed in competitive exams, will be implemented for SSLC exams.

Fewer exam centres

The department has proposed reducing the number of examination centres to help with supervision. Officials from other government departments will be appointed as invigilators.

Ritesh Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary of the department, told *The Hindu*, "We are trying to promote sanctity in the Grade 10 examination in Karnataka. Last time, there were some incidents of mass copying in the North Karnataka region, and around 60 teachers were suspended. Therefore, we decided to make some reforms in the examination."

Vijayanand Travels to buy 550 Volvo, Eicher buses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hubballi-based Vijayanand Travels has placed an order for 550 intercity luxury buses from Volvo and Eicher. The order, touted to be the largest-ever for such buses in the country, is valued at ₹500 crore.

The order would include 500 units of Eicher Intercity 13.5m AC and non-AC sleeper coaches and 50 Volvo 9600 luxury sleeper coaches. These buses will be manufactured at Hoskote and Pithampur factories. Shiva Sankeshwar, MD, Vijayanand Travels Private Limited, said, "Keeping our legacy as a backdrop, we want to establish pan-India operations in terms of fleet size, geographical reach, and intercity connectivity."

Spotlight

Read longform articles from our regional editions

- **Delhi:** Geetika Sharma suicide case: 11 years of solitude **bit.ly/geetikasharma**
- **Telangana:** The force of the flood **bit.ly/telanganaflood**
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Yanadis tribe: Less visible and left out **bit.ly/yanadis**
- **Tamil Nadu:** The American camera that captured the arrival of Sivaji Ganesan on the silver screen **bit.ly/ganesansivaji**
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You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Man who assaulted two policemen arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A man who allegedly assaulted two police personnel from Chamarajpet police station has been arrested. The accused has been identified as Afreed Khan, from Faruqui Nagar, in J.J. Nagar.

On Wednesday, constables Shivaprasad Danareddy and Vijay Kumar were on night patrol. Around 3 a.m., the duo found Afreed Khan moving around suspiciously near Anantharamaiah Compound and stopped him to check his finger prints to match them with those of any known offender on the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) app.

However, this enraged Afreed Khan and he not only verbally abused the constables but also pulled out a lethal weapon hidden in his shirt at the back and attacked the duo. Shivaprasad Danareddy's thumb was injured in the attack. However, Vijay Kumar held the accused from behind and soon the Hoysala arrived and arrested the accused.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our Client **Mr. Praveen S.V. S/o. B.C. Venkataramana,** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Miss. Harshitha Rajendra D/o G.N.Rajendra** Rep By GPA Holder **Smt.D.G.Girija W/o.G.N.Rajendra.** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the **Site No.9,** of Converted Survey No.4 and 8, situated at **Gastikempana Halli, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk,** and the layout is known as **"Jayasurya Nagar-1st Phase",** approved by Bengaluru Development Authority vide no.B.D.A/TPA/PL-98/09-09/2548/2009-10, Dated : 02.11.2009 , measuring East to West 15.24 Mtrs and North to South 9.14 Mtrs and which is bounded on :

East by : Site No. 6, West by : Road, North by : Site No. 10, South by : Site No. 8,

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that my client **SURESH.B** S/o Sri.Bhaktha, residing at No.18, 2nd Main, Muneshwara Layout, Kodichikkanahalli, B.G.Road, Bangalore-560 076, Aadhaar No.9559 5994 2558 has lost the Page No.8 of original Sale Deed dated:09.08.2019, vide Document No.BGR-1-02922/2019-20, Book-I, stored in C.D.No.BGRD503, in the office of the Begur, Bangalore which is executed by Mr.Amanulla Khan in favour of my client and same was lost on 04.07.2023, while travelling in Begur and I tried to trace out same but failed to trace out the same and my client has lodged a complaint on 04.08.2023 before Begur Police, Bangalore.

If anyone finding the above original title deed is requested to hand over the same to the undersigned within **seven (7) days** from hereof and my client will assure of appropriate reward to such person:

M.R.REVANNA, Advocate
No.264, 1st Floor, Behind Ganesh Temple
Begur Road, Bommanahalli
Bangalore-560068. Ph:99806 28324

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in pursuance of the intent of our client **("Client")** to develop the Schedule Property from the Owner, wherein representations and assurances have been made that the Owner has clear and marketable title and the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances.

All persons/entities, including individuals, companies, banks, financial institutions, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title, benefit, liability, interest and/or demand of whatsoever nature against /upon/in respect of the Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by operation of law or otherwise, assignment, hypothecation, covenant, power of attorney, agreement of sale, memorandum of understanding, partnership, easement, gift, inheritance, pledge, lease, sub-lease, lien, attachment, license, mortgage, succession, beneficial interest under any trust, allotment, sale, will, transfer, partition, release, relinquishment, or under any agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or award passed by any court or authority or otherwise claiming howsoever or claiming to be in custody/possession of the title deeds, documents and writing pertaining thereof ("Claims") are required to give notice in writing along with relevant documentary proof in that regard to the undersigned at the office, M/s. King Stubb & Kasiva, 1A, 1B & 2B, Lavelle Mansion, 1/2, Lavelle Road, Bengaluru - 560 001, India within15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be deemed that the claimant(s) have relinquished such Claims and/or waived the right to exercise such claims and the right, title and interest of the Owner to the Schedule Property and the said Property shall be deemed to be clear and marketable and free from all encumbrances of any nature whatsoever.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties bearing Survey No. 26/P2 measuring 2 Acres 20 Guntas, Survey No. 26/P3 measuring 4 Acres, Survey No. 26/P4 measuring 4 Acres 39 Guntas, Survey No. 26/P5 measuring 4 Acres 10 Guntas, Survey No. 26/P7 measuring 4 Acres, Survey No. 26/P8 measuring 1 Acre 16 Guntas, Survey No. 26/P11 measuring 4 Acres, Survey No. 26/P9 measuring 4 Acres, Survey No. 26/P10 measuring 4 Acres in all measuring 33 Acres 5 Guntas situated at Shingenahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded as:

East by : Land bearing Survey No.23/1 of Shingenahalli Village;
West by : Land bearing Survey No.40 of Lakkenahalli Village;
North by : Remaining portion of land bearing Survey No. 26 of Shingenahalli Village and
South by : Land bearing Survey No.28 of Bhaktarahalli Village.

Ms. Asha Kiran Sharma
Partner
King Stubb & Kasiva
Advocates and Attorneys
1A,1B & 2B, Lavelle Mansion, 1/2,
Lavelle Road, Bengaluru - 560 001, India
Phone: 080 41179111/222/333
Date: 02.08.2023 Place: Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

We, Santhosh S/o Rangappa and Geetha D.M. W/o Santhosh, R/at No.29, 5th Cross, 11th Main, Maruthi Nagar, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore North, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079. We have a minor son whose name has been mentioned as MANJU S. in his Birth Certificate. Now, we do hereby state that, we have changed his name to MANJUNATHA K.S. for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 31.07.2023 sworn before Notary A.C. Subbu Swamy, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. SAHIRAM PILANIA,** Son of Sri.Gordhan Ram, Aged about 40 years, R/at No. 13, 11th Main, 13th Cross, NS Palya, BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560076, is intending to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned below from its owners **Sri.JAVEED PASHA,** Son of Sri.Chand Pasha, Aged about 36 years & **Smt.NOUFEENA H.K,** Wife of Sri.Javeed Pasha, Aged about 33 years, both are residing at No.411, 4th Floor, Vandana Sai Nivas, Arekere, Sai Baba Temple Back Side, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560076. Any person/s having any manner of right or title or interest or claim or objection or however otherwise, may file his/ her / their objections or claims in writing the below mentioned address with relevant documents within **7 days** from the date of this public notice, failing which my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property treating that there is no claim over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.6,** Property No.335/6, carved out of Sy.No.62 of Bilekahalli Village, Old Katha No.251, Old House List No.342/335/6, present B.B.M.P. Katha No.246/244/251/62/342/335/6, situated at **Munivenkatappa Layout, Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk,** within the jurisdiction of Ward No.188-Bilekahalli, B.B.M.P., Bengaluru, measuring **East to West 40 feet and North to South 52 feet,** totally measuring to an extent of **2080 square feet** together with a commercial building consisting of **Ground Floor** measuring **1900 square feet** and **First Floor** measuring **1900 square feet,** comprising of RCC Roofing, Mosaic Flooring, with all civic amenities and bounded on:

East by : Property belongs to B.N.Kokila, West by : Property belongs to Sri.K. Doreswamy, North by : Road, South by : Property belongs to Shanbog Nagappa.

Lokesha.G, Advocate,
No. 235, 8th Main, Byrasandra,
Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011

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TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP Portal Only)

Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi invites the below said tenders on TTK Basis in HESCOM jurisdiction.

Sl.No.	Particulars	Bid Indent No
1	Execution of SCP works at Examba and Kadapur in Chikkodi Division	HESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT2 and HESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT3
2	Establishing transformer repair center at Gokak Sub Division	HESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT1

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **05.08.2023.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Ele),
Project Monitoring Cell,
HESCOM, Hubli

DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/137/2023-24

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS
IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029

JOINT ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME
NOTICE

To utilize the available resources of hospitals and to provide them with an opportunity to give PG training, NBEMS has launched a Joint Accreditation Program for Broad Specialty (DNB) courses.

The applications are invited from the desirous Hospitals/institutions for seeking accreditation with NBEMS in various DNB (Broad Specialty), DrNB (Super Specialty), FNB (Fellowship) and Post MBBS Diploma courses.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin for details regarding minimum accreditation criteria, accreditation fee and application process. Information Bulletin can be seen under 'Accreditation' link of NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in

Important Dates

Timelines	DNB, DrNB and FNB Courses	NBEMS Diploma Courses
Last date for submission of Online Application	29th September 2023	31st August 2023
Last Date for Receipt of Hard Copy Application	16th October 2023	15th September 2023

Applicant Care Support: 011-45593000
*** Email ID: accr@natboard.edu.in**
*** Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website**

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560012.
Phone: 080-23460460 (5 Lines), Fax: 080-23461576
E-mail: keauthority-ka@nic.in Website: http://kea.kar.nic.in

No: KEA/ED/ADMN/CR-08/2023-24 Date: 04-08-2023

POST GRADUATE COMMON ENTRANCE TEST – 2023
for admission to 1st Year / 1st Semester MBA / MCA / M.E. / M. Tech. / M. Arch Courses

1) Pursuant to the Government Order No. ED 17 TEC 2018, Bangalore dated 13-03-2018, applications are invited from the eligible interested Karnataka and non-Karnataka candidates for admission to 1st year / 1st semester full time / part time MBA / MCA / M.E. / M. Tech. / M. Arch courses in the institutions affiliated Universities which will be notified by the Government of Karnataka for the year 2023-24. Candidates have to appear for the Post Graduate Common Entrance Test-2023 conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority to become eligible for admission to these courses as per the provisions of the Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Master of Business Administration and Master of Computer Application Courses Rules, 2005, Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Master of Engineering (ME) and Master of Technology (M.Tech) courses, Rules, 2005.
2) **GATE qualified candidates from only Engineering and Technology discipline are eligible to take admission to Various M.Tech Programmes under VTU, Belgaum.** The candidates with valid GATE score should compulsorily enter application online to become eligible for admission to M.E. / M. Tech / M. Arch courses, **but they need not appear for PGCET-2023.** SC/ST/OBC reservation eligibility criteria are applicable only to those who become eligible as Karnataka candidates.
3) Non-Karnataka candidates are eligible to select ONLY the seats surrendered by the management if any, for admission to MBA / MCA courses. Non-Karnataka candidates will not be eligible for reservation. **Hence, if they have scored the required minimum 50% or above, fixed for 'GENERAL Merit' as per the qualifying criteria, then only they are eligible to register for admissions through KEA or for any other seats in the State of Karnataka.** Please note that SC / ST / OBC eligibility criteria are applicable to Karnataka SC/ST/OBC candidates only.
4) In the qualifying examination, candidates should have obtained an aggregate minimum of 50% marks, 45% for SC, ST and Category-I of Karnataka candidates. If the qualifying marks assigned in terms of Grades i.e., CGPA / SGPA, ascertain the grade point awarded in the qualifying exam is equal or more than the required qualifying percentage of marks.
5) **Time Table for Post Graduate Common Entrance Test-2023.**

Date & Day	Course	For	Timings	Marks
09-09-2023 Saturday	M.E. / M. Tech / M. Arch	Type-A: Courses Offered by VTU, UVCE, UBDTCE.	2.30 PM to 4.30 PM	100
10-09-2023 Sunday	MCA	Admission to 1st Year / 1st Semester	10.30 AM to 12.30 PM	100
	MBA	Admission to 1st Year / 1st Semester	2.30 PM to 4.30 PM	100

6) Interested and eligible candidates can register and apply online for PGCET-2023 **from 07-08-2023 (11.00 AM onwards) upto 17-08-2023, 11.59 PM.** Fee has to be paid by the registered and applied candidate **on or before 19-08-2023, 6.00 PM.**
7) Information Bulletin-2023 detailing Academic Eligibility, Original Documents to be produced for verification and other admission eligibility criteria are hosted on the KEA Website for the information of the candidates. The candidates are advised to verify the eligibility criteria before applying to any of the courses.
8) The information / particulars entered by the candidates online for PGCET-2023 will be deemed as "Final" and will be the basis for further process. No change in any information entered by the candidates will be entertained.

NOTE:

1) All the admissions and undergraduate Degrees to claim eligibility for admission to any of the PG courses are subject to approval of the Government / VTU / other respective University.
2) As per the letter from VTU, Belgaum dated 12-08-2014, to pursue M.Tech course on the basis of undergraduate programme from Aeronautical Society of India is NOT approved.
3) As per the letter from VTU, Belgaum dated 30-05-2014, who have acquired B.E. Degree through Distance Education Mode are NOT eligible for admission to M.Tech Courses.
4) Candidates who have passed the qualifying examination from Aeronautical Society of India and Associate Membership Examination of Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication (AMIET) will not be permitted seek admission to M.Tech. as per VTU, Belgaum letter dated 14-05-2018 .

For more details regarding eligibility conditions visit KEA Website **http://kea.kar.nic.in**

Sd/-
(S. Ramya, IAS)
Executive Director

DIPR/CP/779/2023-24

112 human casualties owing to elephant attacks in last 4 years

Chamarajanagar witnessed highest number of fatalities; other districts with notable casualties include Kodagu and Hassan

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Human casualties caused by elephant attacks have been increasing in Karnataka as 112 people in the State have died of jumbo attacks in the past four years, according to data from the Union Environment Ministry.

Data shared by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a reply to a question in the Upper House recently shows that the total number of human casualties due to elephant attacks has been consistently high during the four years. Across Karnataka, there were 30 fatalities in 2019-20, which decreased to 26 in 2020-21. The number rose to 27 in 2021-22, and to 29 in 2022-23. , each experiencing significant loss of lives in the four years.

Meanwhile, to prevent human casualties due to elephant attacks, the Karnataka government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy. Mr. Choubey stated, "The State government has constituted District Elephant Task Force to tackle human-elephant conflict in the Hassan, Chikmangaluru, Mysuru, Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, Ramanagara and Bengaluru districts. Each Elephant Task Force has a control room functioning 24/7 at its headquarters."

"Forest Departments are engaging with local communities as animal trackers to monitor the movement of elephants and also to caution local people to avoid human-animal conflict and prevent damage or loss of human life, property, and elephants," he explained.

Highlighting the role of technology, the Minister stated, "As per the information received from the Karnataka government, the drones are used during elephant capture operations to uniquely identify the matriarch elephant in the herds/ male tuskers for administering the drugs. Drones are also being used by the State Forest Department for elephant driving operations." Meanwhile, State Forest Department officials say that they have taken proactive steps to address the situation, which is witnessing a slight dip in elephant attack deaths in the state.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior Forest Department official said, "Overall trend indicates a slight fluctuation in the number of casualties from year to year, but the total remained relatively consistent over the four years, this shows various initiatives taken by the department has been working well and safeguarding both human lives and wildlife."

Human fatalities

Area	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2021-23
Bengaluru Rural	1	0	0	0
Ramanagara	2	0	2	1
Kolar	4	4	2	0
Bannerghatta National Park	1	1	2	4
Mysuru	2	2	0	1
Hassan	3	5	5	4
Tumakuru	1	0	0	0
Chamarajanagar	9	6	2	7
Chikkamagaluru	2	0	2	3
Kodagu	5	8	12	5
Mangaluru	0	0	0	3
Shivamogga	0	0	0	1
Total	**30**	**26**	**27**	**29**

Source: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India

Four districts part of National Family Planning programme's pilot on introduction of new contraceptive options

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

To prevent maternal and infant morbidities and mortalities by ensuring healthy birth spacing, the National Family Planning programme is introducing two new contraceptive options - subdermal single rod implants and subcutaneous injectables. Four districts from Karnataka - Bengaluru, Bidar, Mysuru, and Yadgir - are among the 40 districts in 10 States in the country where the new options will be introduced on a pilot basis.

The Health Department has identified the healthcare facilities in the four districts where the new contraceptive methods will be introduced and is working on rolling out the pilot by September end.

Subdermal single rod implants will be introduced in KC General, Vani Vilas Hospitals in Bengaluru and Government MCH Hospital and Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences in Bidar. The subcutaneous injectables will be introduced in Mysuru and Yadgir in a vertical line from Medical College level to sub-centre level. This includes district and taluk hospitals, community and primary health centres and sub-centres in both these districts.

"We have already received 10,008 single rod implants and 20,000 injectables are expected to arrive next week," Chandrika B.R., State Deputy Director (Family Welfare) told *The Hindu* on Friday.

Status of key Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) indicators for Karnataka/India

	Karnataka	India
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) (SRS 2018-20)	69	97
Total Fertility Rate (TFR) (SRS 2020)	1.6	2
Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR) (NFHS-5)	68.2	56.4
Total unmet need for family planning (NFHS-5)	6.5 %	9.4 %
Demand for family planning satisfied with modern methods (NFHS-5)	90.7 %	74.1 %
Teenage pregnancy (NFHS-5)	5.4 %	6.8 %
Teenage fertility rate (NFHS- 5)	40 %	43 %
Women aged 15 to 19 who use modern contraceptive methods (NFHS-5)	16.9 %	20.1 %

■ New contraceptives for women being introduced in four districts of Karnataka

■ Subdermal single rod contraceptive implant: Long acting reversible contraceptive, effective for three years and inserted just under the skin of upper arm; to be introduced in Bengaluru Urban, BBMP, and Bidar

■ Subcutaneous injectable contraceptive: Long acting reversible contraceptive similar to intramuscular injectable contraceptive but with subcutaneous route of administration, one dose is effective for 3 months; to be introduced in Yadgir and Mysuru

At 1.7, Karnataka's Total Fertility Rate (TFR), that is the average number of children a woman would have in the course of her life, is below replacement (the rate at which the population replaces itself), according to NFHS-5.

Birth spacing

"Ensuring healthy birth spacing remains a priority for Karnataka as 56.2% of births in the State are poorly spaced. This has affected maternal and infant morbidity. Overall, 47.7% of births in India are poorly spaced," Dr. Chandrika said. "Expansion of contraceptive choices under the National Family Planning programme is the key priority for strengthening the family planning programme in the country. India has made substantial progress in increasing contraceptive access. However, there is still an inherent need to ensure healthy spacing between births, especially in the post-partum period, reduce method specific discontinuation and improve user satisfaction," she said.

"Both the contraceptives are being launched in a phased manner in 10 States during the initial introduction phase which will last for three years. The States include U.P. and Bihar in the North, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in the South, West Bengal and Odisha in the East, Assam in the Northeast, Rajasthan and Gujarat in the West and Delhi. Following the pilot, a pan-India roll out will be done," she added.

BBMP not keen on AI camera proposal to tackle black spots in Bengaluru

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) appears to not be keen on the ₹2 crore artificial intelligence (AI) camera project proposed by a private company that is running a pilot in HSR Layout to assist marshals to catch litterers in black spots in the city.

Sources in the civic body alleged that the company has falsely linked all penalty amounts collected by marshalls for littering to AI cameras, and that the numbers were inflated to which a senior official raised an objection.

Under the pilot, the company installed about 15 cameras having the ability to capture vehicle number plates and notify the marshals. According to the company, they also have AI cameras, which can identify repeat offenders. The pilot project commenced in September 2022 is operational in the designated areas.

Garbage thrown on the footpath at old Guddadahalli on Mysuru Road. K. MURALI KUMAR

A few months into the pilot, the company came up with a proposal of installing cameras across Bengaluru, in all black spots, at an estimated cost of ₹2 crore. The data shared by the company to The Hindu shows that from September 5, 2022 to August 2 the AI assisted marshals collected ₹60 lakh. The company claimed that each camera assisted in collecting ₹40,000 per month.

The company did not divulge details about how much the pilot cost. It stated that the pilot project was executed under no-loss, no-profit model.

The AI cameras capture the number plates of vehicles entering designated black spot zone and notifies the marshal. The marshals have to download the app to receive notifications. Later, the marshals can look for the owner of the vehicle on Vahan data base. A senior official in Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) said the project was pushed by a local contractor and local MLA. It was shown in the proposal that the company spent only ₹5 lakh for the project but helped collect a massive amount of fines. Not all the fine amount shown in the data was collected through AI assistance, but by marshals independently, said the official.

The company, responding to BBMP's allegations, said there was an error in calculation in the data, which they had provided. The company later shared another data, stating: "An average of ₹30,000 to ₹40,000 was collected every month from each deployed AI cameras."

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.B.D.A/E.O/T.D.R Cell/Notification/57/2023-24 Dated:04.08.2023

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961, the following area mentioned in the schedule below was acquired by the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Office of the Commissioner, NR. Square, Bengaluru for development of road for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan or proposals of the Local Authority and the Development Right Certificate has been issued to the land owner.

The following land/building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation as per the Government of Karnataka Notification No. UDD/154/BEMRUPRA/2004 Dated: 18.01.2005.

As per the Govt Notification dated: 04.03.2017 the present owner of the DRC/TDR has given the representation to the Bangalore Development Authority for Revalidation/Transfer/ Utilisation for the DRC's issued by the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose land are acquired for the public purpose and Development rights are issued in lieu of Monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority within fifteen days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land/ building area surrendered and land owners for which Development Rights Certificate is issued.

Sl. No.	Address of the plot/land/ building area	Public purpose the land/ plot is required for	Dimensions of the land/plot Length x Breadth in Mtrs.	DRC No.& Extent in Sq.mtr. of the land/ plot	Boundaries of the land/plot	Name and Address of the land Owner of the land/ plot for which Development Rights Certificate is issued
1	Sy.No. 9/3, of Bandikodigehalli Village, Jala (H) Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru	Widening of Kannur, Mylanahalli Road from Kannur Junction to Mylanahalli Village, BIA Compound	As per Survey Drawing	DRC: 2595 154.50 Sq.mtr.	**East:** Remaining Portion of Sy No. 9/3; **West:** Road; **North:** Sy No. 9/4 &; Road **South:** Sy No.9/5 & Road;	B.J.Basavaraju S/o Jayaramaiah, Bandikodigehalli Village, Jala (H), Bengaluru North Taluk,Bengaluru.
2	Sy.No. 106/2, Mylanahalli Village Jala (H) Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru	Widening of Kannur, Mylanahalli Road from Kannur Junction to Mylanahalli Village, BIA Compound	As per Survey Drawing	DRC: 3148 180.80 Sq.mtr.	**East:** Remaining Portion of Sy No. 106/9; **West:** Road; **North:** Property of Sy No. 106/8; **South:** Property of Sy No.105;	M.C. Krishnappa S/o Chikkananjundappa # 121, Mylanahalli Village, Bengaluru North Taluk, Jala (H), Bengaluru
3	V.P.Katha No.198/ 672/177/215, Bagalur Village, Jala (H), Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru	Widening of Kannur, Mylanahalli Road from Kannur Junction to Mylanahalli Village, BIA Compound	As per Survey Drawing	DRC: 2868 111.48 Sq.mtr.	**East:** Remaining Portion of Sy No. 177; **West:** Road; **North:** Remaining portion of Sy No.177; **South:** Remaining portion of Sy No.177;	Smt Muninarasamma W/o Late Vasudeva, # 593, Bagalur Village, Jala (H), Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560 049
4	Sy. No.2, Koudenahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru	Widening of Battarahalli Road from NH-4 near T.C. Palya Junction to Outer Ring Road via Battarahalli Sannatammanahalli, Anandapura, Akshyanagara, Koudenahalli Cross and Channasandra Bridge	As per Survey Drawing	DRC: 2967 1190.00 Sq.mtr.	**East:** Sy.No.04; **West:** Sy.No.136; **North:** Remaining portion of Sy No.02; **South:** Road	Sri Umesh Babu S/o Late A.C.Lakshmana Murthy Sri L.Suresh Babu S/o Late A.C. Lakshmana Murthy, Sri Manjunatha S/o Late A.C. Lakshmana Murthy # Sy.No.41, T.C.P. Palya Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Koudenahalli Village, Bengaluru-560 016
5	Sy. No.19 Kyalasanahalli Village, K.R.Pura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru	Widening of Jakkur flying club Road (Gas pipe line road) from Kothanur (Hennur Road) to Bilishivale (Peripheral Ring Road)	As per Survey Drawing	DRC: 2127 3541.74 Sq.mtr.	**East:** Sy.No.18; **West:** Sy.No.16; **North:** Remaining portion of Sy No.19; **South:** Remaining portion of Sy No.19;	Smt Shwetha D/o Devarajappa, # 354, F-Block, Sahakaranagara, Bengaluru-560 092

BDA/PRO/TDR/01/2023-24 Sd/- Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru

INBRIEF

Droupadi Murmu to arrive in Mysuru today

The aircraft carrying President Droupadi Murmu will land at Mysuru airport on Saturday enroute her visit to Mudumalai. According to Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru K.V. Rajendra, the President will land at the airport around 12.30 p.m. before she proceeds to Mudumalai. She is scheduled to return to Mysuru airport around 5.45 p.m. before departing to Chennai. Mr. Rajendra convened a meeting of officials from various departments to discuss the steps that needed to be taken for the visit.

BJP warns of stir if Dalit welfare funds are not restored

BJP leader and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday warned the Congress government of launching a State-wide stir by the party if it did not restore the funds allegedly diverted from the SCSP/TSP for guarantee schemes. Addressing a protest meeting of BJP at Freedom Park in Bengaluru against the alleged diversion of funds meant for Dalit welfare to the implementation of guarantee schemes, Mr. Bommai alleged that the Congress government had deceived Dalits by taking away the funds. "When the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister had visited Dalit settlements before the polls to issue guarantee cards, they should have told them about their plans to divert the funds," he remarked.

Well-to-do people possessing BPL cards will face action after probe: Muniyappa

Minister says inquiry will be held based on details available with the Food and Civil Supplies Dept.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of enhancing benefits under the free rice scheme of Anna Bhagya, the government is set to weed out ineligible beneficiaries by initiating measures against well-to-do people who are misusing the scheme by getting BPL ration cards.

Speaking at a press conference in Bengaluru on Friday, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa said a comprehensive inquiry would be conducted based on the information available with the department. Stern action would be initiated against those who have managed to get BPL cards by violating the norms, based on the outcome of the inquiry, the Minister said.

Pending applications

Pointing out that 3,18,907 applications seeking BPL cards were pending before the department at the end of July, Mr. Muniyappa said the government would take a call on issuing new cards soon. One month time would be given for effecting changes in the cards, such as inclusion or deletion of names and cancellation of cards. If ineligible beneficiaries do not cancel their cards using this opportunity, the government will commence action against them, he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa launching the cash transfer for Anna Bhagya 2.0 scheme in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Referring to the decision by the government to deposit ₹170 per person a month to the accounts of beneficiaries instead of five kg rice as a temporary measure, he said a total of ₹566 crore had been deposited in the accounts of about one crore families in the last 25 days. With the Food Corporation of India refusing to sell extra rice to Karnataka to carry out the scheme, the State government launched payment of money instead of rice as a temporary measure.

Answering queries, Mr. Muniyappa said discussions had been held on procuring eight lakh tonnes of ragi and three lakh tonnes of jowar under PDS. The State had also requested the Centre to increase the Minimum Support Price for ragi to ₹5,000 a tonne and jowar to ₹4,500 a tonne, he noted.

Final picture likely in a week

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the neighbouring Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have come forward to provide rice for Karnataka's Anna Bhagya scheme, Food Minister K.H. Muniyappa on Friday said a final picture would emerge within a week.

Stating that talks with the two States were expected to reach final stages in about a week, the Minister said 10 kg of rice would be given to poor families, instead of the present system of giving money in lieu of rice, from September if things go well.

However, he made it clear that the government would buy rice from these States only if they sell at the rates prescribed by the Food Corporation of India.

Dinesh Gundu Rao says mohalla clinics of Delhi are 'overhyped'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Health Minister put out a message on X that he had come back feeling 'disappointed'

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Friday visited an Aam Aadmi Mohalla clinic in New Delhi and later put out a message on X (formerly Twitter) that he had come back feeling "disappointed".

While his visit was earlier welcomed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Mr. Rao's remark hours later came as a surprise. He said: "Visited a Mohalla Clinic in Delhi with hardly any people there. Our clinics in Karnataka have more facilities including a laboratory to do immediate tests for patients. I guess it is overhyped and I came back feeling disappointed."

This comes at a time when the Opposition parties are trying to portray a united front ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led government's mohalla clinic is a neighbourhood facility to provide free primary healthcare to residents. Mohalla clinics are one of the flagship initiatives of the Delhi government to promote primary healthcare system in the national capital.

Surprisingly, Mr. Rao had praised the model earlier in the day. "I heard a lot about the clinics and wanted to see them. I wanted to discuss how the AAP government is implementing health policies," Mr. Rao had said. "Karnataka has been giving priority to the health of the people. Like mohalla clinics, we have namma clinics. We wanted to see how we can improve our system," he had said.

Mr. Kejriwal, in a message on his social media handle, had said: "Karnataka Health Minister visits Delhi mohalla clinics. We welcome him and his team. We all have to learn from each other. Delhi will also learn from the good work done by Karnataka govt."

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, T M Zakriya, R/at 10/2, 5th Cross, Oklipuram, Bangalore 560021 have lost the Land Documents of Late T Abdul Khader and Late Bibi Rukhaiya of Survey No. 82 Yadthare Grama, Byndoor Taluk Udupi Distric. If found please contact 7338348483.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that my clients 1) Mr. MOHAMED MOINUDDIN S/o Mohamed Rafiuddin and 2) Dr. MASIHA FARZANA W/o Mohamed Amjed Ali, both C/o No.709, 7th Main Cross, Kavalbyrasandra New Extn, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032, have entered into an Agreement of Sale with 1) Mrs. MONICA JOSEPH, 2) Mr. MOHAN ROBERT SERAPIN and 3) Mrs. SHIRLEY XAVIER all are children of Late Mrs. Maggie Robert & Late M. Robert, all C/o No.9/1, earlier No. 27, 2nd Cross, Vivekananda Nagar, Bangalore-560033, to purchase the Schedule Property hereunder which earlier belonged to their Mother Mrs. Maggie Robert, later acquired by them by virtue of a registered Will dated 05-05-2020. If any person/s have any manner of rights, interests, share/s, claims or objections of whatsoever nature can lodge their claim/s with the undersigned along with substantial document/s within 15 Days from this notice and if no claim/s are lodged within the specified period, it will be deemed that the above mentioned persons are the sole and absolute Owners of the said Property and my clients will proceed to conclude the sale transaction and register the sale deed.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

The Residential Property bearing Present Municipal No.9/1, PID No.86-65-9/1, 2nd Cross, Vivekananda Nagar, BBMP Ward No.86, New Ward No.59, Bangalore, (earlier Site No.67, later Corporation No.9/1, then assigned as No.27, Portion of Sy.No.82/1, Lingarajapura, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore), measuring: Eastern side: 58 Ft., Western side: 59 Ft., Northern side: 40 Ft. and Southern side: 40 Ft., totally measuring 2340 Sq. Ft. bounded on the East by: Private Property (earlier Site No.66); West by: Private Property (earlier Site No.68); North by: Private Property (earlier Venkataraman's Land and Chetty's Plot); South by: 25 Feet Road.

Sd/- **T.M.SYED AFZAL AHMED (Advocate)** No.151/1-A, Lal Masjid Complex, Jumma Masjid Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore- 560 051. Ph: 98455 46676 / 080 4164 3307

Govt. appeal against extending BH series scheme to staff of pvt. firms dismissed

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka has dismissed State government's appeal against a single judge order directing the transport authorities to register under "Bharat (BH)" series the new non-transport vehicles of employees having transferable jobs in private companies.

Observing that the Central government had amended the Motor Vehicles Rules in 2021 to enable registration for employees working in certain sectors having transferable jobs, the Bench said that "once the rules framed under Section 65 of the MV Act by the Central are made applicable, the State governments have to implement it in view of the constitutional mandate provided under Article 256 of the Constitution."

The Bench passed the order while upholding the single judge's order of December 16, 2022.

The State Transport Department, in a circular issued on December 20, 2021, had extended the BH series scheme only to vehicles owned by officers of All India Service, Central government employees holding posts of inter-State transfer, and bank officers holding posts of inter-State transfer, even though the Central government had extended the benefit to staff of private sector too.

The Bench said that the State government will have to implement the Centre's scheme in its entirety while rejecting the State government's claim that private sector employees are appointed on temporary/contract basis and that their continuity in service is not assured.

The logic of temporary/contract basis and uncertainty in service would also apply to employees of other sectors who are given benefit of the scheme, the Bench said.

Transfers: Faculty with serious ailments fail to make the cut

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Ranjani K. (name changed), a cancer survivor, is posted as a degree college teaching faculty in one of the North Karnataka districts and is under treatment in a hospital in Bengaluru. She has been trying to get a transfer to either the capital or one of the surrounding districts for three years now, to no avail.

Many others like her suffering from really serious ailments have failed to make the cut in the eligibility list for the annual transfer of government degree colleges teaching faculty in the State, even as many seniors who have cited orthopaedic problems and conditions like diabetes and blood pressure have made it. On the other hand, 19 teaching staff whose medical certificates claiming they had serious ailments were rejected during the re-verification process in 2022, have made the cut this year.

Applicants have alleged that this is an indication of widespread malpractice and exploitation of certain loopholes in the law.

Compulsory transfer of degree college teaching staff is in progress in the State. This year, the department plans to transfer 15% of teaching staff, of which 1% will be for serious ailments cases, as per norms. Given the number of transfers under this category is limited, competition is high.

Those seeking transfers under the serious ailments category have to get a certificate from the district medical board where they serve. The medical board must certify that they are suffering from a serious ailment for which treatment is unavailable in the district.

Lack of definition

Junior faculty members suffering from serious ailments but unable to get through point to systemic issues in the process. Firstly, serious ailments haven't been defined well in the norms governing these transfers. In rules governing the transfers of pre-university teaching faculty, serious ailments have been defined as one of the five life-threatening diseases: cancer, cardiac, brain, kidney-related ailments, and HIV/AIDS. "Such a clear definition of serious ailments would disqualify majority of those who have been in the eligibility list this year," a faculty member rued.

Secondly, the severity of the disease is not a criteria for the transfer. Once a faculty gets a medical certificate that he/she suffers from a "serious ailment", the seniority based on date of joining service is the only criteria based on which the transfer eligibility list is drawn up.

"We agree that severity of the disease is a subjective matter and it can also be misused. But when the number of transfers done is limited, the government cannot completely evade the subjectivity of the severity of the health condition and make it completely mechanical, removing all discretion. Younger faculty suffering from serious ailments are made to suffer further. Under the present system, it takes almost a decade before a younger faculty suffering from a serious ailment gets a transfer," a faculty member said.

Pradeep P., who was the Commissioner, Department of Higher Education, said considering seniority as a criterion for transfers was a policy matter, and the bureaucracy cannot do anything. He defended the transfer process and said the medical examination during the re-verification process was conducted under the supervision of Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Department, and Director of Medical Education Department.

Mr. Pradeep was transferred on Thursday, and a new commissioner is yet to take charge.

'Officials given targets to clear govt. land encroachments'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Krishna Byre Gowda

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Friday said officials had been given targets for clearing government land of encroachments in their jurisdiction.

He told media persons that the government would use documents available with it, including the A.T. Ramaswamy and Balasubramanyam committee reports on encroachment of government land, for taking action against land sharks.

The revenue inspectors would be given the power to clear encroachments and also protect them, irrespective of political clout of land sharks, Mr. Byre Gowda said. The Deputy Commissioners of districts will be given specific monthly targets for clearing encroachments.

Mr. Byre Gowda said he had taken up a State tour and held meetings at the division level where instructions and targets regarding clearing encroachments had been given.

Observing that the highest encroachment of government lands had been seen in Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts with the involvement of powerful persons, he said a high-level meeting would be held on August 7 to issue directions to the Deputy Commissioners.

A similar meeting would be held in Mysuru on August 8.

Mr. Byre Gowda also noted that the government would implement the erstwhile BJP government's decision of leasing out encroached government land in coffee estates of Malnad districts.

Replying to queries, the Minister said he had asked the officials to collect information on land grants during the last six months of the erstwhile dispensation so that he could examine whether such grants were as per the norms.

BELAGAVI SMART CITY LIMITED
1st Floor, BUDA Office, Ashok Nagar, Belagavi -590016.Phone: 0831-2461352,
E-mail: bscltd16@gmail.com,website: www.belagavismartcity.in
Tender No: BSCL/Tender/Vehicle/2023-24/191 Date: 03/08/2023

DATE POSTPONEMENT TENDER NOTICE

The tender date submission and opening of tender No. BSCL/Tender/Vehicle/2023-24/337 dated 19.07.2023 of Belagavi Smart City Limited is postponed as detailed below. Website: (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
Name of work:- Providing vehicles on monthly rental basis 2023-24.

Sl No	Description	As per Original Notification	To be Read As
1	The date from which tender document can be downloaded	24/07/2023 to 09/08/2023 up to 5.00 pm	03/08/2023 to 16/08/2023 up to 4.30 pm
2	Last date to receive technical queries	28/07/2023 up to 5.00 pm	08/08/2023 up to 4.30 pm
3	Last Date of submission of bid	09/08/2023 up to 5.30 pm	16/08/2023 up to 5.00 pm
4	Date of opening of Technical bid	11/08/2023 at 11. 00 am	18/08/2023 at 11.00am
5	Date of opening of Financial bid	18/08/2023 at 11.00 am	23/08/2023 at 11.00 am

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-237/KSMCA/2023-24
Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Procurement)
Belagavi Smart City Limited

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL & BHEL)
CIN: U40101KA2009PLC049582
No. EE(MSP)/YTPS/23-24/72 Date: 02.08.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement only)

RPCL, invites bids from reputed agencies for the following E-tenders of YTPS through e-Procurement **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **Brief Details of Goods:** Procurement of **1) KPCL/2023-24/IND0346/02.08.2023** Bag filter I&C spares for MRHS Silo. **2) KPCL/2023-24/IND0345/02.08.2023** Electronic water drain and spare kit. **3) KPCL/2023-24/IND0054/CALL-2/02.08.2023** Fabrication materials. **4) KPCL/2023-24/IND0165/CALL-2/02.08.2023** Crusher hydraulic door opener spares. **5) KPCL/2023-24/IND0183/CALL-2/02.08.2023** Oil seals for boom gear box. **6) KPCL/2023-24/IND0040/CALL-3/01.08.2023** Log XR hose for Micro filtration. **7) KPCL/2023-24/IND0160/CALL-2/01.08.2023** Crusher liner plates. **8) KPCL/2023-24/IND0029/CALL-3/01.08.2023** Couplings and other items. **9) KPCL/2023-24/ IND0247/CALL-2/01.08.2023** Switches and LT spares. **10) KPCL/2023-24/ IND0340/01.08.2023** MS plate 6mm. **11) KPCL/2023-24/IND0339/01.08.2023** MS plate and chequerred plate. **12) KPC/2023-24/IND0333/31.07.2023** Hydraulic hoses. **13) KPCL/2023-24/IND0332/28.07.2023** HDPE Pipes and Fitting for BOP System. **14) KPCL/2023-24/IND0331/28.07.2023** Furnace maintenance platform. **15) KPCL/ 2023-24/IND0030/CALL-3/27.07.2023** SS fittings and hoses. **16) KPCL/2023-24/ IND0330/27.07.2023** Cassette baffles. Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (MSP),** RPCL, YTPS, Yeramarus-584134, Raichur(D) Mob:9480682892. E-mail:eemsprpcl@gmail.com Website:www.kpcl. karnataka.gov.inz

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES,
Office of the Commissioner, Pashupaalana Bhavana, 1st Floor, Opp. to CBI Office, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560 024.
Email : pdkldabangalore@gmail.com Ph: 080-29533854.
No. PDKLDA/LIV.INS/2023-24 Date: 04.08.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement Mode Only)

The Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services hereby invites tender under e-tendering system from Insurance companies and intermediaries registered under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) for providing services to carry out Livestock Insurance in Karnataka State.

Type of Animal: Indigenous / crossbred/ milch animals, (Cattle/Buffalo / Bull /Bullock/he Buffalo),horse, donkey and other Livestock (Goat, Sheep, Pigs, Rabbit)

Tentative Approximate No. of animals to be insured (in nos) : 150000 Cattle units

Approximate funds earmarked per year Rs. 1437.15 Lakhs

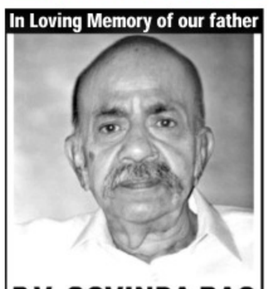
Interested eligible tenderers can view the complete document by visiting the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **04-08-2023**. The tenderers can upload all the relevant documents from **04-08-2023 upto 02-09.2023 4.00 PM.**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/793/Zen/2023-24 Member Secretary, Tender Inviting Committee

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In Loving Memory of our father



P.V. GOVINDA RAO
"A Complete man"
FAMILY MEMBERS
Chennai.

CPI(M) leader denies terming deities as 'myths'

M.V. Govindan seeks to clarify party's position; the Congress and the BJP triumphantly interpret his latest take on the debate as a cringing about-face; both the parties want to use it as a political prod to goad Kerala Assembly Speaker Shamseer into apologising publicly and putting the dispute to rest

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] scrambled to defend itself against a growing chorus of accusations, discomfortingly amplified on social media, that top party leaders broadcast a disdainful view of Hindu beliefs while not daring to question the articles of faith cherished by other religions.

Kerala Assembly Speaker A.N. Shamseer's appeal to school students to enshrine science over a literalist interpretation of religion in Kannur last week triggered a political storm that caught the CPI(M) in its eye and showed scarce signs of abating.

BJP supporters protesting against Kerala Assembly Speaker A.N. Shamseer remarks about a Hindu deity, on Thursday. PTI

Seemingly keen to preempt religious passions from roiling State politics, CPI(M) State Secretary M.V. Govindan sought to clarify the party's position on the debate.

Mr. Govindan denied he had dismissed Hindu deities as "myths". Instead, he had merely asked whether the lore that an avatar created Kerala's land mass "was empirically confirmed scientific truth".

The government seemed keen not to provide emotive ammunition to the Sangh Parivar to launch a socially disruptive "defend the faith" campaign on the lines of the tempestuous Sabarimala agitation.

Meanwhile, the Congress and the BJP triumphantly interpreted Mr. Govindan's latest take on the debate as a cringing about-face.

They also used it as a political prod to goad Mr. Shamseer into apologising publicly.

Senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala and Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan urged Mr. Shamseer to take a cue from Mr. Govindan's "belated course correction" and set the "inflammatory dispute" to rest by expressing regret openly.

NSS moves Kerala HC to quash criminal cases

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Nair Service Society has moved the Kerala High Court seeking to quash the criminal cases booked against its activists for unlawful assembly and taking out a procession in defiance of the law prohibiting procession and agitation in public places.

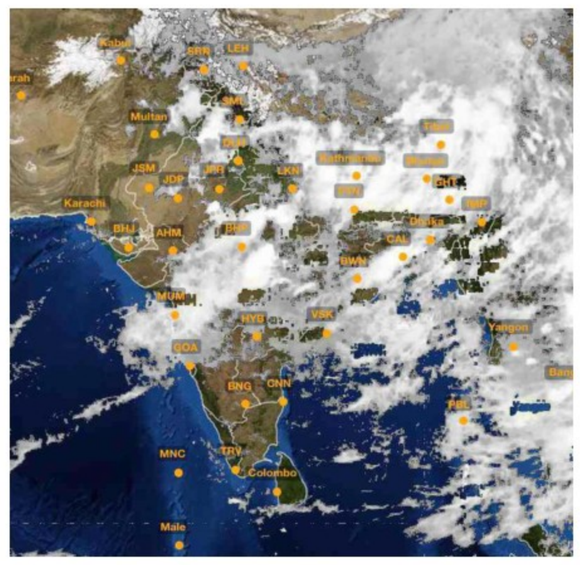
The petition moved by Sangeeth Kumar, vice-president of the organisation, may come up for the consideration of the court on Monday.

The police had booked cases against Mr. Kumar and around 1,000 identifiable NSS activists, who took out the *Nama Japa Yathra* on August 2.

The petitioner stated that the activists peacefully assembled to mark their protest against a statement made by the Kerala Assembly Speaker ridiculing Lord Ganesha, who was worshipped as God by Hindus, as a myth. There was not even a speck of allegation of using criminal force by the activists, he said in the petition.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Sikkim, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3.6	31.6	25.4	Kozhikode	1	32.7	25.0
Ahmedabad	0.1	31.7	26.8	Kurnool	—	34.4	24.3
Aizawl	0.4	28.5	21.2	Lucknow	1	33.8	27.5
Allahabad	8.7	31.6	27.7	Madurai	—	40.0	25.8
Bengaluru	—	30.1	20.2	Mangaluru	6.7	30.1	24.0
Bhopal	15	—	23.5	Mumbai	4	30.8	26.5
Bhubaneswar	—	33.7	24.2	Mysuru	—	32.0	22.1
Chandigarh	—	32.2	28.8	New Delhi	2	34.4	26.5
Chennai	—	38.0	30.0	Patna	—	34.1	27.4
Coimbatore	—	34.5	23.6	Port Blair	—	30.6	27.1
Dehradun	5.7	29.2	24.6	Puducherry	—	38.2	27.8
Gangtok	9	20.7	19.0	Pune	3.4	28.4	22.3
Goa	6	31.7	24.0	Raipur	13.2	27.0	23.5
Guwahati	5	32.8	25.8	Ranchi	8	24.6	21.8
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	9	24.5	18.8
Hyderabad	0.1	32.6	23.3	Shimla	3	22.2	18.2
Imphal	3	29.2	22.2	Srinagar	—	32.4	20.0
Jaipur	—	29.8	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.2	25.6
Kochi	8	30.8	25.2	Tiruchi	—	38.7	27.0
Kohima	16	25.8	17.8	Vijayawada	—	36.5	27.4
Kolkata	—	34.5	28.5	Visakhapatnam	—	33.3	28.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	..—	4	.76	78	87	.....
Bengaluru	...8	..—	.31	...136	...104	.....
Chennai	...5	..64	109	83	71	.....
Delhi	.18	..97	.55	72	...189	.....
Hyderabad	.12	..10	.34	63	91	.....
Kolkata	.14	..19	.14	43	49	.....
Lucknow	...2	..23	.24	54	62	.....
Mumbai	.10	..—	..—	20	...303	.....
Pune	132	222	110	60	52	.....
Visakhapatnam	.15	..37	.17	48	...104	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 213 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Chandrayaan-3 covers two-thirds distance to moon

As of Friday, Chandrayaan-3, India's third moon mission that was launched on July 14, has covered about two-thirds of the distance to Earth's only natural satellite. On August 1, the ISRO performed the TransLunar Injection (TLI) to slingshot Chandrayaan-3 towards the moon. In other words, ISRO put the spacecraft, which was orbiting Earth, on course to the moon. Following TLI, The ISRO said that the health of the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft is normal and it has entered the moon's sphere of influence. On August 5, the Lunar Orbit Injection (LOI) will take place around 7 p.m. IST. At that point, the spacecraft is expected to be embedded in an orbit around the moon.

Ask Karnataka to release water due to Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister Stalin urges PM

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

CM emphasises that the available water in T.N. could only support standing crop for 15 days more

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately instruct Karnataka to release Tamil Nadu's due share of Cauvery water, and make good the shortfall in June and July, to save the *kuruvai* paddy crop in the Cauvery delta.

In a letter, he said Karnataka was not honouring the Supreme Court's order that fixed Tamil Nadu's share of water, and not following the directions of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

In the 2023-24 water year, Karnataka had released only 11.6 tmcft, as against 40.4 tmcft, from June 1 to July 31, Mr. Stalin said in the letter, a copy of which was released to the media. "Such a huge shortfall of 28.8 tmcft has been thrust on Tamil Nadu, even while Karnataka has a gross storage of 91 tmc in its four major reservoirs against their full storage of 114.6 tmcft," the Chief Minister said.

Unlike the other parts of India, Tamil Nadu, especially the Cauvery delta, receives very little rainfall during the southwest monsoon, he said. "Hence, the cultivation of *kuruvai* and the sowing of *samba* paddy crops fully depend on water release from the Mettur dam, which, in turn, depends solely on the flows from Karnataka," Mr. Stalin said.

But the Mettur dam had only 26.6 tmcft as on August 2. After provisioning for drinking water supply and other essential needs, the "available water can support the standing *kuruvai* crop for only 15 more days, whereas the crop needs water for another 45 days for maturity and optimum yield," said the letter.

The Tamil Nadu government had taken up the issue with the Union Minister for Jal Shakti and urged him to advise Karnataka to adhere to the water release schedule, Mr. Stalin said.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No. KPCL/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT82/CALL-3 Date: 28.07.2023
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)
KPCL invites item wise tender from eligible bidders for the work of **Servicing of 2 No's of (5000 & 6000 LPH Capacity) transformer oil filter machines along with supply of necessary spares**. EMD: **Rs.28,550/-**. The intending bidder can download the tender document from e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (ODY)**, BTPS, KPCL, Kudithini-583152, Bellary Dist. Mobile: 94482 90753.

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560 023.
Tel.: 080-2955 7021, e-mail : pdksaps@gmail.com
No: KSAPS/PRC/05/2019-20 Date: 03.08.2023
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through kpp-procurement) (Two Cover System)
Short term re-tender (Two Cover) are invited for supply of ARV drug Abacavir 300 mg IP Tablets (Single Pill) under E-Procurement System. Details are available at e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submission of tender on **14.08.2023 upto 5:30pm.**
Sd/-
Project Director
Karnataka State Aids Prevention Society
DIPR/CP/JA/788/2023-24

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number 1800 102 1878
Or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project (South) Division, Jayanagar 2nd Block, 9th Main Road, 9th Cross, Bengaluru-560 011
No. EE/PS/E-Proc/EOI/08/2023-24 Date: 04.08.2023
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
(Through KPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Project (South) Division, BBMP invites EOI for **Running, Supervision and maintenance of Ashwath Kala Bhavan, N. R. Colony in Ward No. 154, South Zone (Revenue Contract for the year 2023-24 to 2027-28)** from eligible tenderers.
Calendar of Events: 1) Pre-bid meeting : **11.08.2023** at **3:00 pm. 2)** Last date for submission of tender documents : **28.08.2023 upto 4:30pm. 3)** Date & time of opening of technical bid : **30.08.2023 at 4:30pm. (If possible).** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Project South Division.

City Corporation Office, Davanagere.
No.: DCC:EE1:E.Tender:09:2023-24 Date: 01.08.2023
Tender Notice (through KPP Portal)
Tender is invited in double cover system through kppp portal for works of package No. 13 of Mahatma Gandhi Nagar Vikas Yojane (MGNVY) for the year from 2019-2020 to 2023-24 and package No. 14 of Mahatma Gandhi Nagar Vikas Yojane (MGNVY) Incentive Fund for the year from 2019-2020 to 2023-24. Eligible Contractors/Agencies/Suppliers can participate through kppp portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be obtained through website of Mahanagara Palike www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in and e-procurement helpline phone nos.: +91-80 46010000, +91-80 68948777. Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: 29.08.2023, time: 11.00 AM. Last date and time for obtaining information regarding the tender: 11.09.2023, 16.30 hrs. Last date and time for submission of tender: 11.09.2023, 17.00 hrs. Date and time of opening the Technical Bid: 13.09.2023, 11.00 AM.
ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/163/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Civil), City Corporation, Davanagere.

KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
Office of the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Resource Management)
Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.
Phone: 080-23341459 e-mail: apccffrm@gmail.com
No: B3/Sales/CR-60/2020-21 Date: 01.08.2023
BRIEF E-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTIFICATION
It is hereby notified for the general information of the public that **Red Sanders** (Pterocarpus santalinus) and pieces stored at below mentioned three Government Sandalwood Depots and New Mangalore Port Authority Trust Premises will be sold by e-tender-cum-auction mode through MSTC Ltd., on the online platform **"www.mstcecommerce.com".** The sale conducting authority is the Deputy Conservator of Forests of the concerned Divisions. The e-tender-cum auction is subject to terms and conditions uploaded on the website : www.mstcecommerce.com . A brief of the sale is as follows:
Date of e-tender-cum- auction : 01st September 2023. Mode: Online-www.mstcecommerce.com
Name of the Depot, Phone Number, e-mail Address & Session Timings:
1) Government Sandalwood Depot, Mysore. Ph: 0821-2483853, dcfmdm@gmail.com. 10:30 hrs. to 12:00 hrs.
2) Government Sandalwood Depot., Shivamogga. Ph: 08182-272210, dcf.shivamogga@gmail.com. 12:00 hrs. to 13:30 hrs.
3) Government Sandalwood Depot. Dharwad. Ph: 0836-2447092. dcf_dwd@yahoo.co.in. 14:00 hrs. to 15:30 hrs.
4) New Mangalore Port Authority Trust Premises. Ph: 0824-2423913. dcf_mngt@yahoo.co.in. 15:30 hrs. to 17:30 hrs.
Quality of Material & Approximate value: 1) Government Sandalwood Depot. Mysore. Approximately **26.736 MT Red Sanders wood** of all grades. 2) Government Sandalwood Depot., Shivamogga. Approximately **19.604 MT Red Sanders wood** of all grades. 3) Government Sandalwood Depot. Dharwad. Approximately **3.572 MT Red Sanders wood** of all grades. 4) New Mangalore Port Authority Trust Premises. Approximately **56.141 MT Red Sanders wood** of all grades.
Inspection of logs by the bidders: 16.08.2023 to 22.08.2023 10:30 a.m. to 03:30 p.m.
Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Timings: 1) Government Sandalwood Depot. Mysore. 21st August 2023 at 4:00 p.m. 2) Government Sandalwood Depot., Shivamogga. 22nd August 2023 at 4:00 p.m. 3) Government Sandalwood Depot. Dharwad. 23rd August 2023 at 4:00 p.m. 4) New Mangalore Port Authority Trust Premises. 24th August 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
Conditions: 1) Interested bidders should get themselves Registered with MSTC well in advance. 2) Interested bidders are advised to inspect the material to their satisfaction 3) The quantity notified adjacent to each class kept for sale is approximate. 4) Every Registered bidder shall pay an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs.10,00,000/- for all lots/or any lot/s for each of sale venues. 5) The black listed bidders, defaulters, minors, insolvent persons will not be permitted to participate in the sale. 6) Detailed Sale Conditions can be seen or downloaded from **www.mstcecommerce.com**
Sd/-
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Resource Management) Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/763/MAA/23-24

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari
Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123
No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-3/2023-24/1579 Dated : 02-08-2023
KPPP Brief Tender Notification for preparation of detailed project reports (DPR's) for the proposed works to be takenup under CEPMIZ
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division, Ballari is inviting tenders for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR's) for the Proposed improvements of State Highway, Major District Road and Other District Roads works to be taken up under CEPMIZ as per Standard Bidding Document (KC-4) and KPWD Norms. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.

Sl No	Details of Works	Road length in Kms	Amount of Bridge Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	Improvements to SH-61 to join Devadurga-Amarapura-Bhogavathi-Hirekotnakal-Talur-Ballari-Rupangadi-Chellagaurki Road (SH-128) from Km. 180.44 to 183.44, 183.94 to 190.75 & 199.00 to 200.50 (4 Lane) in Ballari Taluk (PWD/2023-24/SE0006/CALL-2)	11.31	-
2)	Improvements to KKK-Haraginadoni-Belagal-Ballari-Moka-Alur road SH-132 at Km 26.40 to 27.70 and Box Culvert at Km 37.80 (Near Siddammanahalli) in Ballari Taluk (PWD/2023-24/SE0007/CALL-2)	1.30	-
3)	Improvements to NH 150A (4 Lane) road from APMC Yard to Halakundi ROB Road from Km 0.00 to 3.00 and improvement and construction of 3 bridges (Mundragi, Guggarahatti, HLC Canal) in Ballari Taluk (PWD/2023-24/SE0009/CALL-2)	3.00	-
4)	Re-construction of RCC Bridge across HLC on NH 63 near Allipur village in Ballari Taluk (PWD/2023-24/SE0010/CALL-2)	0.022	990.00
5)	Construction of Bypass Road to Haraginadoni village in Ballari Taluk (PWD/2023-24/SE0005/CALL-2)	3.00	-
6)	Construction of Bypass Road to Mincheri village in Ballari Taluk (PWD/2023-24/SE0011/CALL-2)	2.00	-
7)	Improvement to Road from Yelubenchi to Kudithini Railway station on to Siddammananahalli (MDR) from Km.0.00 to 10.50 (selected reaches)in Sandur Constituency, Ballari Taluk Ballari District (PWD/2023-24/SE0013/CALL-2)	2.50	-
8)	Construction of CC road to Taranagra Bypass road via S.Gangalapura, V.Nagalapura, Bannihatti check post in Sandur Taluk from Ch 0.00 to 5.10 Km (including land acquisition) in Sandur taluk Ballari District (PWD/2023-24/SE0016/CALL-2)	5.10	-
9)	Construction of CC road to Dharmapura to join Sandur-Siruguppa road (SH-49) (Ring Road) from Ch 0.00 to 8.00 Km (including land acquisition) in Sandur taluk Ballari District (PWD/2023-24/SE0019/CALL-2)	6.00	-
10)	Construction of Yeshwantnagara RUB on Myalar Toranagallu road SH-40 at Km 130.20 in Sandur taluk Ballari District (PWD/2023-24/SE0021/CALL-2)	-	900.00
11)	Construction of CC road (Elevated Road) from Toranagallu to Hosadaroji road via Tank bund (V.R.) i.e Km 0.00 to 5.50 in Sandur taluk Ballari Dist (PWD/2023-24/SE0018/CALL-2)	5.50	-
12)	Construction of CC road to Bannihatti Bypass, Ubbalagundi Bypass, Rajapura Bypass Road and 02 Nos ROB (including land acquisition) in Sandur taluk Ballari District (PWD/2023-24/SE0020/CALL-2)	20.90	-

Tender Process Details : 1)Tender Dcoument can be downloaded in KPP Portal from 03-08-2023 to 18-08-2023 upto 16.00 Hours. 2)Pre bid meeting on 10-08-2023 at 11.30 Hours (o/o Executive Engineer Office, PWD Division Ballari). 3)Last date & Time for Receipt of Tenders 18-08-2023 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)Date & Time for opening of Technical bid 19-08-2023 at 16.30 Hours. 5)Date & Time of Opening of Financial Proposal: will be informed separately to those consultants whose technical proposal is accepted. 6)Corrigendums, Addendums and Modifications in Notification if any will be published in E-procurement Portal only.
Terms of Reference may be downloaded in KP-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 03-08-2023. Registered Consultancy firms in E-Procurement are eligible to participate in any number of tender, But on consultancy firm is eligible to obtain Tender. Any information can be obtained from o/o Executive Engineer Office, PWD Division Ballari during office hours on all working days and also through https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in KP-Procurement Portal Helpdesk Telephone No. 080-25501216 & 080-25501217.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/180/KSMCA/2023-24

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
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Incremental injustice

Motivated cases for altering status of places of worship must be discouraged

In upholding the conduct of a survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at the Gyanvapi mosque, the Allahabad High Court may have endorsed a surreptitious attempt to alter the character of the place of worship. Both the High Court and the Varanasi District Court, which ordered the ASI survey on July 21, had held earlier that the suit filed by some Hindu devotees to assert their right to worship some deities and images within the mosque precincts was not barred by the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, which froze the status of all places of worship as on August 15, 1947. The reason given was that the suit was solely for the right to worship and not to seek any declaration that the building was a temple. In brazen contradiction to this stand, the worshippers filed applications seeking a scientific survey by archaeologists to ascertain whether the Gyanvapi mosque was built on the demolished structure of a Hindu temple. Both courts have endorsed this strategy of gathering official evidence, currently not available to the plaintiffs, through the ASI. The District Court's order merely said a scientific report would bring out the "true facts" about this case and help it arrive at a just and reasonable conclusion. The High Court has dismissed all objections, including the ones that said the court cannot ask for expert evidence even before the issues to be tried were framed, and that it cannot gather evidence on behalf of the plaintiffs.

The courts have not dealt with the question why it is necessary to determine the date of pillars and walls and make a list of artefacts, when the main prayer in the suit is for the right to worship Ma Sringar Gauri, Ganesh, Hanuman and other "visible and invisible" deities. The entire case is based on the assertion that Hindu deities were being worshipped at the site before and after August 15, 1947. And that daily worship of these deities was going on till 1990, and that after 1993, it is permitted one day every year. The plea for a survey and the intent to rake up the question of an earlier structure under the mosque indicate a design to create conditions for seeking an alteration to its status. An earlier order asking an Advocate-Commissioner to study the premises led to a claim that what was likely a sprinkler or fountain was a 'shivalingam'. It is unfortunate that the courts are encouraging motivated litigation directed at Muslim places of worship. Each time such an application is filed, it raises the spectre of incremental injustice from an abuse of the legal process.

A tentative rethink

The GST Council's retake on gaming bets does not provide enough certainty

Less than a month after the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council appeared to have sealed a compact on the long-deliberated issue of the appropriate tax to be levied on casinos, horse racing and the booming online games industry, it was convened afresh this Wednesday to revisit the matter. The rethink on the Council's move to impose a 28% GST on the face value of bets placed by participants was ostensibly triggered by an outcry from industry and a nudge from the Electronics and IT Ministry that is steering the e-gaming policy. Online gaming players had termed it a death knell for the sunrise sector with billions of dollars in investments and thousands of jobs at stake, and stressed the levy is not in sync with global norms that tax the gross gaming revenue (i.e., their platform fees). Sikkim and Goa's pleas for the casino tax to be also levied in the same manner did not find favour with the Centre and most States, so the Council decided to stick to its stance with one minor, but not trivial concession. Simply put, if one enters the race course on Derby Day and bets ₹1,000 on a horse with moderate odds which ends up winning, and bets part of that bounty on another horse in the next race, the tax levy will remain confined to your initial thousand rupee wager. This formulation addresses the prospect of repeat taxation on reinvested earnings, drawing a muffled sigh from the nascent industry that still remains anxious on the implications of the tax likely to kick in from October 1.

It is no one's case that the GST Council should only take unanimous decisions – as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman pointed out, even the taxation of lotteries was firmed up by a majority vote. But the Council's promise of a review of the tax six months after its implementation, even if it was just an attempt to placate the dissenting voices of small States such as Goa and Sikkim, belies a lack of conviction in the resolution. While users and industry now await the fine print of the legislative changes to GST laws and the rules to be subsequently notified by the Revenue Department, the room for a review, which could swing either way, creates a cloud of uncertainty on business operations and fresh investment plans. The Council has often clarified or tweaked tax treatment for items, when warranted. But announcing a review at the outset sets an awkward and potentially dangerous precedent that could thwart India's aspirations of being a reliable investment destination with predictable policies. The Council should not give the impression that it can be swayed so easily by representations from the industry or demands of individual States.

The lessons of Hiroshima must not drift away

The morning of August 6, 1945, dawned clear and sunny as the Enola Gay wheeled over Hiroshima and dropped its payload on the city centre. The 15kt uranium bomb exploded 600 metres above the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall, instantly flattening everything and everyone below. Only the skeletal structure of the hall remained, bearing witness to the moment when our beliefs about weapons and wars changed.

Priyanjali Malik

is the author of 'India's Nuclear Debate: Exceptionalism and the Bomb'

The concept of deterrence

In the intervening 78 years, we have witnessed the rise and fall of nuclear threats. The concept of nuclear deterrence attracted the sharpest minds in countries that both possessed nuclear weapons and abjured them. Especially as nuclear weapons became more powerful, it became clear that any nuclear use would be a global problem. This allowed a parallel development to occur: even as nuclear weapons states developed ever more destructive nukes, a taboo against their actual use began to develop. The political scientist Nina Tannenwald has defined the nuclear taboo as a coalescing norm against using nuclear weapons because these weapons are seen as so beyond the pale that there are almost no circumstances in which their use can be justified. Crucially, this taboo extends across the whole class of weapons, regardless of their yield, leading to a blanket prohibition of use that each passing year reinforces. However, this taboo has no legal basis; it rests on ideas of morality, proportionality and responsibility.

The taboo is grounded firmly in our treating nuclear weapons as different: nuclear weapons, in Bernard Brodie's celebrated phrase, are the 'absolute weapon'. This special treatment is grounded not so much in the power of the atomic bomb – we are able to dial up or down the destructive capability of modern nukes, and we have developed conventional munitions that rival some nuclear destructiveness; or even in the ability to flatten a city in moments. The special status of nuclear weapons rests on the continually reaffirmed knowledge gained from the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that nuclear weapons are indiscriminate and do not distinguish between combatants and non-combatants; they contaminate the environment for decades; and the effects of the radiation are felt for generations. There are people in Japan still living with the consequences of August 1945.

Events since Russia's invasion of Ukraine have tested the world's notions of nuclear deterrence and the nuclear taboo

Testing these notions

Events since Russia's invasion of Ukraine have tested our notions of deterrence and the taboo. Russian President Vladimir Putin has issued several veiled and not-so-veiled nuclear threats, ranging from reminding the world of Russia's nuclear weapons status at the start of the war against Ukraine on February 24, 2022 to ordering Russia's nuclear forces into a 'special regime of combat duty' a few days later (which left analysts scrambling to decode what that formulation might mean), to declaring in September 2022 that Russia was prepared to 'make use of all weapon systems available to [them]. This is not a bluff.' Dmitry Medvedev, currently deputy chairman of the Security Council of Russia and others have echoed Mr. Putin's threats.

Thirty-eight years after the leaders Ronald Reagan of the United States and Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union declared that 'a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought' (and less than a year after Mr. Putin and President Joe Biden reaffirmed this pledge in June 2021), Russia was raising the spectre of nuclear Armageddon in Europe.

Future historians will decide how credible these threats were. Potentially, September and October 2022 might come to be regarded as a time when the nuclear taboo was tested almost to breaking point. Following battlefield reversals in late summer and Mr. Putin's declaration that Russia was prepared to use 'all weapons systems available', speculation arose about whether Russia might use a tactical nuclear weapon and if so, where and how.

This was dangerous on multiple counts. To begin with, this conjecture risked creating expectations of its own that might have pushed the Russian leadership to behave in a certain way. Loose talk about what sort of nuclear weapons might be acceptable to 'send a message' also risked undermining the nuclear taboo. And finally, there is still no consensus on what constitutes a tactical nuclear weapon. Battlefield or tactical weapons (as opposed to strategic weapons) are delivered over shorter distances and are smaller than strategic weapons, but beyond that, there is significant variability in yield, depending on the delivery method. The U.S., for example, has tactical weapons ranging from a fraction of 1kt to 170kt. The bomb that fell on Hiroshima was 15kt. It would be beyond insulting to the memory of the estimated 70,000 people who died immediately and the many tens of thousands of *hibakusha* who have lived with the consequences of that bomb to suggest that this was just a small, tactical weapon.

The responses

There is, however, room for hope in the official responses by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other nuclear weapons states to Mr. Putin's sabre-rattling and the subsequent speculation. The U.S. was at the forefront on this, and what it did do is as important as what it did not do. Washington made it abundantly clear that any nuclear use would be met with a very strong and commensurate response. However, it did not specify that that response would be nuclear: quite the opposite, as it emphasised a calibrated, conventional response to any nuclear adventurism at NATO's doorstep.

The U.S. also did not change its nuclear preparedness, thereby not fuelling the nuclear speculation building up in Europe. Crucially, in November, even China's President Xi Jinping called on the international community to 'jointly oppose the use of, or threats to use, nuclear weapons'.

That nuclear crisis passed, but the world could still be held hostage to Russia's movement of tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus, at Minsk's invitation. Like Ukraine, Belarus gave up its nuclear weapons in the 1990s in return for security guarantees from Russia, the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Reversing that agreement now seems a pointless provocation – high on symbolism and risk.

At the height of the Cold War, there were almost 70,000 nuclear weapons scattered around the globe, either in storage or deployed, some on hair trigger warnings. That we avoided a nuclear exchange is down in part to the lessons of Hiroshima, and in part to sheer, dumb luck, as the history of near misses throughout the Cold War demonstrates.

As an insurance policy, it is not much.

America's pursuit of Saudi-Israel rapprochement

The proverbial propensity of the 'Middle East' to spring surprises is on call again. This time it is about the chances of success of dogged, albeit quiet, United States diplomacy to reconcile two regional powerhouses, *viz*. Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Ironically, this quest by the Biden administration is taking place under challenging circumstances. The White House has had tepid relations with leaders of both countries, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman. Mr. Netanyahu heads an extreme right-wing coalition determined to accelerate the Jewish settlements in the Occupied West Bank and curb the judiciary's independence – the U.S. strongly opposes both. Under the Saudi Crown Prince, initially ostracised by the Biden Administration for his alleged involvement in the Jamal Khashoggi murder, the Kingdom has been nonchalant towards Washington.

Mahesh Sachdev

is a retired Indian Ambassador and an Arabist. He is currently President of Eco-Diplomacy and Strategies, a Delhi-based consultancy

Saudi initiatives

After nearly eight decades of the U.S.-Saudi "Energy for Security" compact of 1945, Riyadh has been assiduously diversifying its strategic options. It has reconciled, at least tactically, with its arch-enemy Iran through Chinese mediation, hosted the Chinese President for three summits in Riyadh (President Xi Jinping met separately with his counterparts in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Countries), cooperated with Russia under the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries-Plus (OPEC+) rubric for higher oil prices and facilitated the return of Syria to the Arab fold. All these in-your-face Saudi initiatives challenge the U.S. interests. They disserve President Joe Biden's bid for re-election next year. Against this obstructive backdrop, the White House has waged a concerted campaign to persuade Saudi Arabia to normalise its relations with Israel. The proposal has been on the Saudi table since November 2020 when the Saudi Crown Prince and Mr. Netanyahu had an unpublicised meeting in Neom, Saudi Arabia, in the presence of the then-U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo. It has gained traction in recent months with the U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken visiting Saudi Arabia to be received by the Saudi Crown Prince. While the Saudis have not rejected the idea out of hand, they have reportedly put forth daunting pre-conditions said to include North Atlantic Treaty Organization-like U.S. security guarantees, access to advanced American weapons systems, approval for the acquisition of civilian nuclear technology, and an Israeli commitment to a process leading to a two-state solution with the Palestinians. The specifics are under negotiation among the three tight-lipped stakeholders.

Ironically, the Biden administration's diplomacy is taking place under challenging circumstances, but its global fallout could be quite profound

A convergence, but with different motives

While the U.S., Saudi Arabia and Israel may converge at the proposed reconciliation, their respective motives differ. First, the Biden administration, deeply concerned with the growing ingress by China and Russia in the 'Middle East', wants to re-entrench the Pax Americana over the region by bringing two traditionally pro-west regional players together. It also feels that fostering such a reconciliation would ingratiate Mr. Biden with the two miffed leaders. Lastly, the powerful Jewish lobby's gratitude would help Mr. Biden win the U.S. presidential election next year.

Saudi Arabia under the Saudi Crown Prince has adopted an assertive and ambitious foreign policy, commensurate with its oil wealth, to become *primus inter pares* for the region and emerge as an important global player. By reconciling with Israel, it takes away the first movers' advantage that the United Arab Emirates has had for the past three years as a member of the "Abraham Accords". Moreover, diplomatic ties with Israel would balance the Kingdom's recent reconciliation with Iran and Syria and help it emerge as a more nationalist power than an Islamic one. Despite its moves, Riyadh needs a stronger U.S. security commitment and access to Israeli technology. The Saudi Crown Prince may, however, need to mitigate the scepticism about Israel at home and within Al-Saud.

For Israel, a Star of David flying in Riyadh would be a major geopolitical victory, symbolising its final acceptance as a legitimate Jewish state by the centre of Islam after 75 years as a regional outcast. Given the Kingdom's trendsetting role as the custodian of Islam's two holy shrines, the Riyadh-Tel Aviv détente would herald Israel's integration with the Arab-Islamic world. It would provide direct air and land access to Asia, enabling better leveraging of the economic opportunities as the economic centre of gravity shifts eastwards.

The wider impact

The global fallout from such a development would be quite profound. The Islamic mainstream would likely follow the Saudi lead, with countries such as Pakistan and Indonesia in the first row. However, it would further marginalise the "Palestinians' Cause" and may polarise and radicalise them and other opponents of Israel such as Iran and Syria, Hezbollah, Hamas and the Islamic State.

Having invested considerable diplomatic capital in this quest, the U.S. may eventually succeed despite the formidable odds, particularly as the Israeli government would have to moderate some of its hard-held policies.

Saudi-Israeli rapprochement would have a mildly positive impact on India. It would remove a contradiction in India's regional policy and better align Saudi Arabia with us. It may open opportunities as the U.S. pushes back China from the region. But then, it may also give Israel reasons to hyphenate India with Islamic countries, including Pakistan.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Great Nicobar Project

The report, "Over nine lakh trees likely to be axed for Great Nicobar project" (Page 1, August 4), was disheartening to read. The number fails to reflect the total damage that will happen to this pristine ecosystem.

Valuable and unique flora and fauna will be wiped out in the name of development.

As seen in the recent legislation amending the Forest Act, the government of the day only seems to be paying lip service to conservation and carbon neutrality. There can be other plans on a much smaller scale to build defence and security installations.

B. Sundar Raman,
Coimbatore

True, the Great Nicobar Project holds the key to immense advancements in trade, infrastructural development, and national security. However, one fears that environmental concerns are taking a back seat. Clearing virgin and ancient forests on a mammoth scale will destroy the biodiversity of the pristine island.

Michael Jom,
Thiruvananthapuram

The report is shocking. We are replacing a vast area of original forest in the name of 'development'. We need to focus on sustainable development rather than mere development.

Aleena Raj,
Thiruvananthapuram

One fails to understand the necessity and logic behind such a project.

Environmental issues in India need very careful handling especially in the aftermath of the gradual sinking of Joshimath town in Uttarakhand.

There are other examples in India that highlight the consequences of meddling with nature. The flooding in Bengaluru, destruction in Kerala and the havoc caused in parts of north India cannot be forgotten or glossed over.

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

Environmental management does not seem to be this government's strength, as is evident in the many troubles the ambitious cheetah project is facing and the baffling logic of "afforestation" being proposed in Haryana to compensate for irreparable environmental damages that are likely to arise as a result of the "Great Nicobar Project".

When will this regime realise that 'cut from one place and paste in another place' logic is not the solution to complex ecological problems?

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

On homoeopathy

Evidence-based medicine is the backbone of allopathy (Editorial page, "India needs evidence-based, ethics-driven medicine", August 4). There is no disagreement with this. At the same time, homoeopathy has its own supporter base whose members strongly believe in the system.

If homoeopathy had not shown results, it would not have survived the colonial age and the modern era.

M. Lakshmi Narayanan,
Chennai

Homoeopathy is a pseudoscience. The Ministry of AYUSH has made a mistake in clubbing it with Ayurveda, a knowledge base of value. The idea of medical pluralism cannot be employed to legitimise superstitions and fantasies.

Dr. G.L. Krishna,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Burnt vehicles at a bus terminal in Haryana on July 31, soon after communal clashes broke out during a religious procession and sparked riots across the southern part of the State. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

In the shadow of the Millennium City

On July 31, communal clashes broke out during a religious procession in Nuh, the most under-developed district of the country, and spilled over to other districts including Gurugram, the financial capital of Haryana. **Ashok Kumar** traces the origin and spread of the riots, which have widened the distrust between Hindus and Muslims

At noon on July 31, hundreds of devotees streamed out of the ancient Shiva temple in Nalhar village, in the Muslim-dominated district of Nuh in Haryana. They had just offered water from the Ganga, considered holy, to the *shivling* (a representation of Lord Shiva) in the temple, located amidst the picturesque Aravalli hills, and were set to proceed towards the Radha-Krishna temple in Singar village, around 50 kilometres away. The devotees were part of the Brijmandal Jalabhishek Yatra, a religious procession organised by the right-wing Vishva Hindu Parishad.

Soon after they began the second leg of their journey, the devotees were attacked by a mob. As stones were thrown at them, and vehicles and shops were set ablaze, the devotees ran back to the temple in terror. They sat huddled inside for five hours, as the mob surrounded the temple, which is believed by many to date back to the time of the Pandavas.

The communal clashes spilled over to the neighouring districts of Gurugram, Palwal, Faridabad, and Rewari. There were sporadic incidents of vandalism in shrines, and arson in scrap dealer shops and *jhuggi-jhonpri* clusters (huts and semi-permanent houses built with bricks and mud). Six people, including two Home Guards, lost their lives and 88 people were injured in the conflict. Section 144 of the Indian Penal Code (joining unlawful assembly armed with deadly weapons) was imposed in Gurugram, Palwal, and Faridabad, while a curfew was imposed in Nuh on Monday night. Internet services were suspended in these districts and all the educational institutions were shut.

While Chief Minister Manohar Lal has claimed that the situation is now under control, the suspension of mobile Internet, SMS, and dongle services in Nuh, Faridabad, Palwal, and parts of Gurugram has been extended until August 5.

Prelude to a riot

Four days after that procession turned deadly, an uneasy calm prevails in Nuh, which Niti Aayog in 2018 categorised as the most underdeveloped of India's districts. In places where, according to a wholesale fruit seller, Shahid Hussain, Hindus and Muslims had lived together in peace for decades, broken glass, bricks, and stones lay littered on the streets now. The 20 km-long stretch from Sohna, where a mosque was vandalised by a mob the next day, to Nalhar on the Gurgaon-Alwar National Highway bears testimony to the violent clashes of July 31. Partially burnt shops, charred vehicles, and upside-down handcarts dot the once-crowded roads.

There are conflicting versions of what happened on that fateful afternoon in Nuh, which is a two-hour drive from Delhi. Ajit Singh, president of the Vishva Hindu Parishad, Gurugram, and one of the organisers of the yatra, claims that the locals threw stones on the devotees from their rooftops. He says the violence, which was unprovoked, escalated in no time: the mob set vehicles ablaze and opened fire on the devotees.

"They damaged vehicles and smashed windowpanes while we struggled to pull out women and children from the buses," Ajit says. "The rioters later opened fire. There was negligible police presence. This was a failure of intelligence. It can also be blamed on the ineptness of the administration. The policemen, who were outnumbered by the rioters, fled the scene leaving the devotees to fend for themselves."

> By the time the administration came to our rescue, the rioters had climbed up the hillocks surrounding the temple on the three sides and fired guns
>
> **AJIT SINGH**
> President of Vishva Hindu Parishad, Gurugram

Ajit says hundreds of devotees were trapped inside the shrine. "Our national joint general-secretary, Surendra Jain, was also trapped inside the temple. He kept making frantic calls to the administration. The police reached the temple around 6 p.m. By the time the administration came to our rescue, the rioters had climbed up the hillocks surrounding the temple on the three sides and fired guns," he says.

The police were mobilised from the neighbouring districts of Faridabad, Gurugram, and Palwal to rescue the people inside the temple.

Pintu Singh, an eyewitness from Gurugram, claims that the violence broke out when six vehicles, including a black sports utility vehicle, carrying devotees reached Nuh chowk. He says there were rumours that Bajrang Dal member and self-styled *gaurakshak* ('cow protector'), Monu Manesar, was inside one of them. Monu is an accused in the murder of two Muslims, Junaid and Nasir, in February in Bhiwani, Haryana.

"The vehicles had *gaurakshak* written on them, which is why these rumours spread," says Pintu, 36, who sustained a shrapnel injury in the attack. Along with scores of devotees, Pintu took shelter at a women's police station nearby.

Tension had been brewing in the region even in the run-up to the religious procession after Monu announced that he and his team would be part of it and urged people to turn up in large numbers. Muslims in the district strongly opposed his visit saying it would disturb communal harmony in the region.

According to Sharif, the former sarpanch (head of the village) of Adbar village of Nuh, another Bajrang Dal member, Bittu Bajrangi, posted provocative videos on July 31 claiming that Monu would be part of the religious procession. This, he says, proved to be the flashpoint.

"The videos of the riots show that it is mostly gullible youngsters who formed the mob, not middle-aged people. Had the administration been alert, this could have been prevented," says Sharif while waiting for a meeting with Congress MLA Aftab Ahmed at his residence.

Shahid, the wholesale fruit seller, speaks fondly of communal harmony in the district. "We install pandals during the Kanwar Yatra (an annual pilgrimage of devotees of Shiva) every year. We are also part of the religious processions of Hindus during Dussehra. Even the VHP procession has been peaceful every year. But it was the provocation by certain people this year which vitiated the atmosphere," he says.

Security personnel keep vigil in Nuh soon after the riots. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The pilgrimage was a subdued affair for many years. But over the last three years, it has been held by the VHP on a large scale, with people from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan also taking part in it. The organisers claim that 15,000 people took part this time. The yatra, they say, aims to "restore the lost glory and significance of the Mahabharat-era temples in Nuh".

Referring to the provocative videos, Aftab says the matter was brought to the administration's notice. "The Kanwar Yatra and Jalabhishek Yatra are annual rituals. There has never been any opposition to them. But a situation was created for a showdown this time. The administration should have taken action against the miscreants before granting permission to the procession. This was actually a show of strength in the name of a procession. The participants were brandishing weapons. While people from far-off places take part in the procession, the locals in Haryana have little clue about it," he says.

Though the Chief Minister said that the violence was pre-meditated and part of a larger conspiracy, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, the leader of the Jannayak Janta Party which is in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party in Haryana, partially blamed the organisers. He said there was no proper estimate of the turnout, and this lapse could have led to the violence. The Leader of the Opposition, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, said the "right step at the right time" could have prevented the situation and termed it "an administrative failure".

A tale of two districts

Despite falling in the National Capital Region, Nuh is yet to be connected by a railway network. It does not have a single university. Its health and educational infrastructure are in a shambles. Drinking and irrigation water are a challenge. The local population is mostly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Known for crime, mostly vehicle thefts, Nuh has been dubbed the 'new Jamtara', after the district in Jharkhand which has become notorious for cybercrime.

> Over the years, right-wing groups have kept the atmosphere communally charged in and around Gurugram. The first step is to provoke Muslims by either attacking them or offending their religion to a point where a confrontation takes place
>
> **ALTAF AHMAD**
> Co-founder of the Gurgaon Nagrik Ekta Manch

In contrast to Nuh is Gurugram, its neighbour, just a couple of minutes away from Delhi. Known as Haryana's financial capital for making the maximum contribution to the State exchequer, Gurugram is the fastest-growing information technology and financial hub after Bengaluru and Mumbai, with the third highest per capita income in the country. It hosts 250 Fortune 500 companies. It is dotted with skyscrapers, malls, and premium dining zones.

What connected these two starkly different districts on July 31 were riots. On that evening, the violence quickly spread from Nuh to Sohna, a sub-division of Gurugram which has a considerable Muslim population. A mob set five cars, an auto-rickshaw, a shop, and four kiosks on fire. They also vandalised a mosque.

Around midnight, an armed mob attacked the Anjuman Jama Masjid in the heart of Gurugram. Imam Mohammad Saad, 26, was killed, and Khursheed, a staff member, was injured. The mob set the shrine ablaze.

Saad and his older brother Maulana Shadab had shifted to Gurugram from Bihar's Sitamarhi only seven months ago in search of livelihood. They stayed separately. Shadab, a private tutor in Gurugram, recalls that he had spoken to his brother just before the attack. Saad had told him that he was safe since the police had been deployed outside the mosque. "Just minutes later, the attack took place. I got a call from a friend around 2 a.m. saying Saad was injured and admitted to hospital. But I learned later that he had died on the spot," says Shadab. "Saad would post songs on his Instagram account promoting communal harmony. He would have never thought that he himself would become a victim of hatred one day."

This audacious attack in an upmarket area with gated condos and steel-and-glass office buildings, located close to a golf course, left the residents shocked. Panic spread across Gurugram's corporate offices and gated colonies. Fake news that inflated the numbers killed did the rounds on WhatsApp. Colleagues expressed concern about their Muslim co-workers. Most workplaces asked employees to go home; malls closed earlier than usual; and many households wondered about the safety of their help. But the conversations also divided teams and neighbours into "us" and "them".

Altaf Ahmad, co-founder of the Gurgaon Nagrik Ekta Manch, a civil society group, says it was simply "unthinkable" that a mosque in the middle of Gurugram had been attacked. He describes the situation as a "new low". Dozens of people, including businessmen, have returned to their native places after this attack, says Altaf.

Several shops, mostly salons run by Muslims, have been shut since the riots broke out. Given the climate of fear, daily wage earners, domestic workers, and fruit sellers from the community have all fled to their native homes. At night, Gurugram lived its lie. The bright lights of the city did not dim. In Nuh, people padlocked their doors and hid inside their own homes.

A growing distrust

Nuh is now limping back to normalcy with the administration relaxing the curfew on August 2 and 3. Educational institutions in Gurugram and other districts have been opened. But in an indication of the growing distrust between the two communities, the Hindu outfits in Gurugram have given the administration a week's ultimatum to ban Friday's Jumma Namaz in open spaces in the city. The Nuh Police, too, have advised Muslim clerics to avoid offering prayers in the open on Friday. The Gurugram Imam Sangathan has also decided not to offer prayers in the open.

The communal divide in south Haryana between Nuh, which is part of the larger Mewat region, a term for the Meo-Muslim dominated areas of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, and the Ahirwal- and Gurjar-dominated belt spread across Faridabad, Palwal, Gurugram, Rewari, and Mahendragarh has existed for long. While there have been minor confrontations between the two communities, triggered by incidents such as suspicions of cow slaughter, hate speeches and lynchings have been taking place more and more in the last few years.

Hindu majoritarian outfits and resident welfare associations have sporadically protested against the Friday namaz in open spaces in Gurugram in the last few years. From 2018 onwards, at the behest of Hindu outfits, open spaces where congregational namaz could be offered have come down from 116 to six. Hindu outfits have also been protesting against meat shops, which are mostly owned by the minority community, during the Navaratri festival every year for the past five years. Meat shops in the city are not allowed to open on Tuesdays. There have also been several instances of attacks on Muslims in and around Gurugram. In 2021, a Christmas carnival in a private school in Pataudi area was disrupted by a mob. Right-wing Hindu outfits also held a mahapanchayat in Pataudi two years ago, and openly called for violence against the religious minority.

"Over the years, right-wing groups have been active in and around Gurugram and constantly keep the atmosphere communally charged," says Altaf. "The first step is to provoke Muslims by either attacking them or offending their religion to a point where a confrontation takes place," he says. "This was the case in Nuh too."

From Page One

SC stays Rahul's conviction for remark

The top court said Mr. Gandhi was disqualified as MP from Parliament for a total of eight years under Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act solely due to the two-year sentence. "Had the duration of the sentence been a day less, provisions of the Act would not have been attracted... The judge is expected to give reasons for imposing maximum sentence, particularly when the offence is non-cognisable, bailable and compoundable," Justice Gavai observed.

The Bench, also comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and Sanjay Kumar, noted that "disqualification not only affects the rights of the individual but also that of the electorate he represents in Parliament... the ramifications are wide".

The Bench said its interim protection of Mr. Gandhi would continue during the pendency of the appeal against the Gujarat High Court's refusal to suspend the conviction handed out by the Surat court. This may mean that as long as the present appeal is pending in the top court, the stay order of August 4 would continue to operate even if a Sessions Court, in the interim, goes ahead to uphold the Surat court's March 2023 conviction.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and advocate Prasanna S., for Mr. Gandhi, said the courts below had condemned the Congress leader to silence for eight years. "There is room for dissent in democracy. There should be mutual respect in politics," Mr. Singhvi said.

But the Supreme Court said Mr. Gandhi's alleged remarks, if made, were "not in good taste". "A person in public life is expected to exercise a degree of caution while making public speeches... The petitioner [Mr. Gandhi] ought to have been more careful," it observed.

Mr. Singhvi submitted that he had not seen any other defamation case in which a maximum two-year sentence had been awarded to an accused. He said there had been no reason for the Gujarat High Court to reject Mr. Gandhi's plea to stay the conviction. He said the case did not entail heinous offences such as rape, kidnap or murder, which involves moral turpitude.

Senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, for defamation complainant and Gujarat BJP MLA Purnesh Modi, said there were official witnesses, tapes and recordings of Mr. Gandhi's comments. He said the electronic evidence showed a "clear intent" to defame an entire community of people with the 'Modi' surname because of his hatred for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

When asked in court, Mr. Gandhi had maintained that he did not remember his remark.

SC upholds ASI study at Gyanvapi mosque

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi – representing the Anjuman Intazamia Masajid committee, which manages the mosque, and had filed the appeal against the Allahabad HC order – said the survey was merely "salami tactics".

"One slice at a time," Mr. Ahmadi said. He submitted that the survey was a breach of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991, which was enacted to guard fraternity and secularism through protection of the religious character of religious places.

Mr. Ahmadi said that the ASI survey had been ordered when there were still "serious doubts" about the maintainability of the suit filed by four Hindu women seeking a declaration of their right to worship their deities at the premises of the mosque. The suit, and the appeal against its maintainability, are still pending adjudication.

The Chief Justice, however, said the issues raised by Mr. Ahmadi were open for arguments when the suit came up for a final hearing, noting that the order for an ASI survey was only an "interlocutory one". The Chief Justice recalled how, in the Ayodhya case, the ASI survey report was not accepted in full.

Senior advocate Madhavi Divan, for some of the Hindu women plaintiffs in the suit, said that the survey did not prejudice the pending case.

Ms. Divan submitted that there had been continuing worship by Hindus at the mosque premises for a long time, until it stopped in 1993. The survey would clear the air on the religious character of the place.

The survey, meant to determine whether the 17th century mosque had been constructed over a pre-existing Hindu temple, began around noon on Friday, amid tight security arrangements. Apart from the ASI's own surveyors, three experts from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur have also been appointed to conduct the survey.
(With inputs from Mayank Kumar in Lucknow)

LS conducts business even as Opposition continues protest

Bills on IIMs, inter-services organisations passed; Opposition, after taking part in debate on Delhi services Bill on Thursday, returns to sloganeering

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties resumed sloganeering and protests over the Manipur situation in the Lok Sabha on Friday, despite requests from the government and the Speaker to cooperate and discuss Bills as they did in the case of the Delhi services Bill on Thursday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who moved the Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023 for consideration and passage, requested the Chair to allow him to speak from a different seat as he was being constantly disrupted. He then spoke from one of the seats in the back benches.

Pushing for change: Rajnath Singh speaks in the Lok Sabha on the Inter-Services Organisations Bill, 2023, on Friday. ANI

Opposition protest

When the House took up the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 on Thursday, most Opposition members participated in the discussion.

However, as soon as the House met on Friday morning, the Opposition members came into the Well of the House and started protests over the violence in Manipur. They were seeking a statement from the Prime Minister, as well as a debate on the issue.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the Opposition should cooperate and take part in the discussions on Bills being taken up on Friday as well, as they were also important. "Not only yesterday's Bill, even today's Bills are equally important. We are ready for even Private Members' Bills today. Please take part in the proceedings," he said.

The Opposition, though, did not relent and continued to protest, even as Speaker Om Birla proceeded with the Question Hour. As the protests continued, he adjourned the House till noon.

Legislative business

When the House reassembled, BJP member Rajendra Agrawal, who was in the Chair, began with the routine laying of papers, and legislative business continued after another short adjournment. Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh introduced the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill, 2023.

The House then passed the Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023, which seeks to empower the commander-in-chief and the officer-in-command of inter-services organisations with disciplinary and administrative powers over personnel from other forces serving in such establishments.

The Lok Sabha also passed the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which seeks to entrust the management accountability of the IIMs with the President, who will be a Visitor and have powers to audit their functioning.

Truce on Manipur debate in RS breaks down over dates

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The short-lived truce between the Opposition and the government on a Rajya Sabha debate on the Manipur situation has broken down over differences on the choice of dates. The government proposed that the debate be held on August 11, the last day of the Monsoon Session. The Opposition rejected the proposal, saying it clearly showed the government's indifference to the issue.

According to government sources, Home Minister Amit Shah – who was to provide the government's reply to the Manipur debate – will be occupied with the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which will be moved in the Rajya Sabha on Monday. For the other three days after that, he will be in the Lok Sabha for the debate on the Opposition's no-confidence motion. This leaves only Friday, the very last day of the session, for the Manipur debate. This was conveyed to the Opposition late on Thursday night.

Slogan shouting

Friday's session began on a bitter note in the Rajya Sabha, with competitive slogan shouting from both sides. For every slogan by the Opposition calling for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence in the House, the Treasury benches shouted, "*Rajasthan pe charcha ho* (discuss Rajasthan)", demanding a debate on alleged atrocities against women in the Congress-ruled State.

Responding strongly to this, Congress president and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge was heard saying, amid the din, "We want to discuss Manipur, why are you dragging Rajasthan in between? Our State government is capable enough to answer your questions; if you have the strength, then raise it there."

At 11.30 a.m., after Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar made several futile efforts pleading for order from both sides, the House was adjourned for 30 minutes.

Similar scenes were repeated when the House reconvened. It was then adjourned for the day.

'Govt. is not serious'

Congress chief whip Jairam Ramesh posted on X (formerly Twitter) that the INDIA parties offered a "middle path" by offering to hold the debate on a mutually negotiated motion on Manipur under Rule 167. "Modi government appeared to agree but indicated that the earliest that the discussion could take place was on Aug. 11th... The discussion should ideally have taken place today for which INDIA parties were ready or very soon – on Monday or Tuesday. We are very serious about the middle path, finding a solution, but clearly the government is not. So much for our sincere efforts," he said.

NRF proposes an expansive definition of research

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh tabled the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill in the Lok Sabha on Friday which proposes to establish the National Research Foundation (NRF), a new body that will provide "high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship". The NRF seeks to replace the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB). It proposes a more expansive definition of research which includes science, engineering, information technology, liberal arts, social sciences and the humanities. The NRF - a reading of the text suggests - can fund and receive money from private sources, philanthropic and international organisations.

The NRF Governing Board will be presided over by the Prime Minister and have the Minister of Science and Education as 'Vice-President.' There is also an explicit inclusion of five members from business and industry, who can be nominated to the Board by the PM. "The Bill, after approval in Parliament, will establish NRF, an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction to scientific research... as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), at a total estimated cost of ₹50,000 crores over five years (2023-28)," the Science Ministry said in a statement.

'ISO Bill paves way for more integration of 3 Services'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As momentum gains for the proposed reorganisation of the Indian military into integrated theatre commands, the Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023. It seeks to empower Commander-in-Chief and Officer-in Command of Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) with all disciplinary and administrative powers in respect of the personnel serving in or attached to such organisations, a Defence Ministry statement noted.

The 'ISO Bill-2023' is essentially an 'enabling Act' and it does not propose any change in the existing Service Acts/Rules/Regulations which are time-tested and have withstood judicial scrutiny over the last six decades or more, the Ministry said. The Ministry further stated that the Bill would also pave the way for much greater integration and jointness amongst the three Services.

Heated debate in LS on Delhi services Bill; Opposition slams govt. over Lekhi's ED remarks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The debate on the Delhi services Bill in the Lok Sabha not only saw Home Minister Amit Shah asserting that Narendra Modi will become the Prime Minister in 2024 but also had moments when the Opposition leaders claimed their allegation about misusing Enforcement Directorate (ED) had been proven right.

Responding to a jibe from an Opposition member on misusing the ED, Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi, who is also a Lok Sabha member from Delhi, advised the Opposition member to keep quiet or else the ED may visit his place.

While she clarified that she had made the comment in jest, the Lok Sabha Chair too made it clear that the comment was not part of the official records.

However, on Friday, Opposition parties used Ms. Lekhi's comment to target the Narendra Modi government.

Meenakshi Lekhi

Using the Lok Sabha clip, Rajya Sabha member and Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi posted in X (formerly Twitter), "Similar to the vibe of "*Chacha Vidhayak Hain Hamare*" [My uncle is an MLA]".

The Congress party's official media handle posted, "See this is the language of this government" and added that the Minister was openly intimidating Opposition parties.

Open threat

"MoS @M_Lekhi was captured on live camera, brazenly threatening Opposition MPs with potential ED raids should they dare to raise their voices against BJP Govt. This egregious abuse of power leaves no doubt that BJP will stop at nothing to crush dissent and muzzle any opposition to their authoritarian rule!" posted the official handle of the Trinamool Congress.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) too, in a post, said the comment proved "the Prime Minister misused the Enforcement Directorate to suppress the Opposition".

However, on Thursday, the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP came under sharp attack from Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) member Harsimrat Kaur.

"Punjab is totally under the control of Kejriwal. A leader of a small union territory is ruling the State of Punjab. He is asking for more powers over here, but he has suppressed every power of Punjab," Ms. Badal said in the Lok Sabha.

"Sir, you will be surprised to know that even to appoint a DGP [Director General of Police], Kejriwal decides," she added.

House panel bats for lowering minimum age to contest polls

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Holding that young individuals can be "reliable and responsible" political participants, a Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended reducing the age for contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections to 18 years, which is the minimum age of voting in India.

This view was, however, contested by the Election Commission of India which said that it was "unrealistic" to expect 18-year-olds to possess the necessary "experience and maturity" for being Members of Parliament and State legislative bodies.

At present, the minimum age for a person to contest Lok Sabha and Assembly polls is 25 years, while one can become a member of the Rajya Sabha or the State Legislative Council only at 30 years.

The Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievance, Law and Justice said that the viewpoint for reducing the age was reinforced by a vast amount of evidence, such as global practices, the increasing political consciousness among young people, and the advantages of youth representation.

"After examining various countries' practices, such as Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia, the Committee observes that the minimum age for candidacy in national elections needs to be 18 years. These nations' examples demonstrate that young individuals can be reliable and responsible political participants," it said in the report submitted to Parliament on Friday.

However, the Election Commission of India, in its deposition before the committee, said that it has already considered the issue of aligning the minimum age for voting and contesting elections to Parliament, State Legislature, and local bodies and has found that it is unrealistic to expect 18-year-olds to possess the necessary experience and maturity for these responsibilities.

"Therefore, the minimum age for voting and contesting elections is appropriate. The Commission does not favour reducing the age requirement for membership of Parliament and State Legislatures and still maintains this view," the EC said.

INBRIEF

Delhi excise policy scam case: SC defers Sisodia's bail plea

The Supreme Court on Friday said that an application filed by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia for interim bail will be listed on September 4 along with his main plea for regular bail in the excise policy scam case. Mr. Sisodia had sought a few days of interim bail to take care of his wife. The CBI, however, responded that his wife had been ailing for the past 23 years. The Bench is hearing two separate pleas for interim bail. The CBI and the ED have both opposed the pleas.

Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla receives fourth extension

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla was given another one-year extension on Friday, his fourth in the post, till August 22, 2024, according to a Personnel Ministry order. Mr. Bhalla was appointed Home Secretary in August 2019. He was to retire in November 2020 after attaining 60 years of age. His tenure was first extended on October 17, 2020 till August 22, 2021. Later, his term was extended for one-year each in 2021 and in 2022. The latest extension will allow Mr. Bhalla to stay in the post during the general elections due early next year. PTI

Haryana violence: Nuh SP Varun Singla transferred

Nuh Superintendent of Police Varun Singla, who was on leave when the communal clashes broke out in the district, has been transferred, an official order said on Friday. Mr. Singla has been made the Bhiwani Superintendent of Police, it said. Narendra Bijarniya, who was holding the additional charge in Mr. Singla's absence, will be the new SP of Nuh, according to a government order issued on Thursday by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) T.V.S.N. Prasad. Six people, including two home guards and a cleric, died in the clashes that erupted in Nuh. PTI

Restore Rahul's LS membership immediately, urge Cong. leaders

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury meets Speaker to press for immediate restoration of membership; party hopes former chief can take part in no-confidence motion debate; truth had to come out some day, says Rahul

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Hailing the Supreme Court's stay on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's conviction in the Modi surname case as a victory for democracy, party president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said that the Congress would now wait to see how quickly Mr. Gandhi's Lok Sabha membership is restored.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters along with Mr. Gandhi and other senior leaders, the Congress chief noted that Mr. Gandhi had been disqualified within 24 hours of his conviction by a Surat court, and urged that his Lok Sabha membership be restored with equal speed.

Pressing for immediate reinstatement, the party's leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury met Speaker Om Birla, who urged the Congress leader to submit the top court's order as soon as possible. Mr. Chowdhury said that his aim was to ensure that Mr. Gandhi can participate in the no-confidence motion debate that is slated to begin in the Lower House on Tuesday. He will be meeting Mr. Birla again on Saturday, sources said. Sources said the Lok Sabha secretariat is awaiting a certified copy of the order even though it is said to have received a copy of the order.

Time to revel: Congress workers celebrate at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Friday after the Supreme Court stayed party leader Rahul Gandhi's conviction in a defamation case. ANI

Mr. Gandhi did not directly answer any question related to the case at the press conference, saying only that the truth had to come out some day. "Truth wins; if not today, then tomorrow. My path is clear. I thank people for the love and warmth they showed," he told reporters. In a post on the social media platform X, he said, "Come what may, my duty remains the same. Protect the idea of India".

'Delay will be unfair'

In the case of Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal P.P., who had been sentenced to 10-year imprisonment in a criminal case, the Lok Sabha Secretariat took nearly two months to restore his membership after the Kerala High Court stayed his conviction on January 25 this year. The Lok Sabha Secretariat only revoked his disqualification on March 29, after Mr. Faizal filed a petition in the Supreme Court to question the delay.

Asked if a similar delay could happen in Mr. Gandhi's case, Congress spokesperson and senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi said, "It will show malafide, it will be graceless, and it will be completely contrary to the heart and soul of parliamentary democracy, which requires certain etiquette and give-and-take."

Mr. Singhvi also emphatically said that the Speaker did not need to seek any further legal opinion from the Law Ministry to revoke the disqualification.

'Victory of democracy'

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters not only witnessed party workers trooping in to congratulate their leader, but also saw an impromptu press conference being held by Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi. "This is the victory of the common people. This is not just Rahul Gandhi's victory, this is the victory of all the people of the country, victory of democracy, and of constitutional principles," Mr. Kharge said.

Top party leaders also took to social media to welcome the order. Thanking the Supreme Court for a just decision, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra posted on X: "Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth - Gautama Buddha." Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel called the verdict "the victory of INDIA".

On the draw

INDIA leaders welcome SC verdict on Rahul Gandhi, call it a victory of judiciary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court judgment staying the conviction of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case, calling it a moral victory for the coalition.

> This will further strengthen the resolve of the INDIA alliance to unitedly fight for our motherland and win
>
> **MAMATA BANERJEE**
> West Bengal Chief Minister

Expressing happiness, West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress president Mamata Banerjee posted on social media, "This will further strengthen the resolve of the INDIA alliance to unitedly fight for our motherland and win. A victory of the judiciary!"

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal welcomed the Supreme Court's intervention in the case and said the verdict reinforces people's trust in Indian democracy and the judicial system.

Calling Mr. Gandhi "dear brother", Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam president M.K. Stalin said justice had prevailed.

He posted on social media, "This decision reaffirms our belief in the strength of our judiciary and the importance of safeguarding democratic values."

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said the ruling had boosted the people's faith in Indian democracy and judiciary. "The arrogant flag of BJP's negative politics should bow down today in mourning of its moral demise," he said.

'Shock to BJP'

RJD leader and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav said the judgment was the essential shock that the ruling BJP needed and that they would have otherwise kept many other Opposition leaders out of legislative bodies.

CPI general secretary D. Raja called the Supreme Court judgment a "victory of truth" against the "forces of deceit".

Trial judge failed to reason why maximum punishment was served to Rahul, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The primary reason for the Supreme Court to stay the conviction of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the Modi surname case on Friday is that nobody knows why the trial judge decided to serve him with a two-year prison sentence, the maximum punishment for the offence of criminal defamation.

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai said there is no clue about it in the trial judge's verdict. "The least the trial judge was expected to do was to give some reasons as to why he found it necessary to impose the maximum sentence of two years," the Bench observed in its four-page order.

Neither does the Gujarat High Court, despite spending "voluminous pages" confirming the two-year sentence of the trial judge, look for reasons.

> **A plethora of SC judgments hold that 'right to reason is an indispensable part of a sound judicial system'**

Rules of justice

A plethora of Supreme Court judgments hold that "right to reason is an indispensable part of a sound judicial system".

Judges should give reasons for their decisions to indicate that they have applied their minds. Another rationale is that the affected party should know why the decision has gone against him.

In *SN Mukherjee v. Union of India*, the Supreme Court held that the object underlying the rules of natural justice is to prevent miscarriage of justice and secure fair play in action. In *Sant Lal Gupta and Ors. v. Modern Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd*, it laid down that a court is bound to give reasons for its conclusion.

In its 1993 decision in *Krishna Swami versus Union of India*, the court explained that reasons "demonstrate how the mind of the maker was activated and actuated and their rational nexus and synthesis with the facts considered and the conclusions reached".

The court observed that an unreasoned order, especially when it targets the personal liberty of an individual, would be arbitrary, violate equality before the law and amount to unfair procedure offending Article 21 of the Constitution.

Jubilant mood: Congress workers staging a march following the top court's verdict, in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. MAHINSHA. S

Members of UDF celebrate in Wayanad

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ KALPETTA

Jubilation filled the air as United Democratic Front (UDF) workers, particularly those from the Congress party, joined hands to celebrate in Kerala on Friday after the Supreme Court granted stay on the conviction of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a defamation suit. Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, represented by Rahul Gandhi, emerged as the hub of celebrations.

UDF workers held triumphant marches, distributing sweets and bursting crackers. Wayanad District Congress Committee president N.D. Appachan expressed his steadfast belief that truth and justice would ultimately prevail.

At the KPCC headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram, Congress leaders led by Ramesh Chennithala cut a cake to celebrate. The verdict gave confidence to those who believed in democratic values, said KPCC president K. Sudhakaran.

Four years on, silence marks SC hearings on Article 370 in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

A complete silence in Kashmir has marked the ongoing day-to-day hearings by the Supreme Court of the petitions pertaining to Article 370. This is unlike 2018, when shutdowns and seminars were being held whenever the top court heard petitions pertaining to Article 35A.

Kashmir has seen no public debate or seminar since the Supreme Court took up the petitions three days ago, unlike the past. Streets are silent and people avoid commenting over the issue. In fact, local dailies have also avoided any debate over Article 370.

"All are closely watching the hearings but I fear holding an opinion may land me in trouble," a leading newspaper columnist told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity.

In 2018, Kashmir had witnessed shutdowns multiple times on the day the Supreme Court was hearing the petitions challenging Article 35A.

A known public speaker and a teacher, who does not want to be identified, said, "Kashmir has grown hopeless in the past four years. This hopelessness has turned into indifference." Meanwhile, a Peoples Democratic Party spokesman said the party has "invited all like-minded to participate in a rally on August 5 in Srinagar".

PM to lay foundation stone for revamp of 508 railway stations

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country, on August 6.

According to the Ministry of Railways, the redevelopment work is done at an estimated cost of ₹24,470 crore. Only 508 stations are currently being taken up for revamp under the Amrit Bharat Scheme that was launched to redevelop 1,309 stations.

Under the scheme, construction work is progressing on 24 stations in 10 States – Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Officials told *The Hindu* that the cost estimate drawn for stations where work is in progress is ₹11,136 crore.

Highest allocation among the 24 stations has gone to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja Terminus at ₹1,813 crore. While Gujarat's Surat station has been allocated a ₹980-crore facelift, Tamil Nadu's Chennai Egmore station has been allocated ₹842 crore.

"Revamping some of these stations is a complex exercise. There are 25% to 30% of stations in the scheme where we are facing challenges in revamping," a top railway official said.

INDIA to hold next meeting in Mumbai on Aug. 31, Sept. 1

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The next meeting of the INDIA grouping will be held on August 31 and September 1 in Mumbai. The meeting, which is being organised by Shiv Sena (Uddhav) and NCP (Pawar), will be the first to be held in a State where its partners are not in government.

The meeting was earlier scheduled for August 25-26. This is the third meeting of the coalition and according to sources, before the 2024 elections, there will be at least five to six rounds of such meetings. The big agenda for the upcoming meeting is fixing a 11-member coordination panel for the coalition.

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अखिल भारतीय वाक् श्रवण संस्थान, मैसूरु
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING - MYSORE
(An Autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,)
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Phone: 0821-2502000/ 2502100, www.aiishmysore.in

Advertisement No: 08/2023

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Post code	Name of the post	No. of Post	Name of the project / place of work	Consolidated salary	Tenure of contract
1	Lecturer in Special Education	01	AIISH, Mysore.	Rs.47,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	Initially for a period of 06 months & it may be extendable on need basis.
2	Senior Research Fellow (SLP)	01	The effects of age-related balance dysfunction on cognition and verbal communication.	Rs.35,000/- + HRA @18% per month.	Initially for a period of 12 months & extendable up to 03 years.
3	Project Associate - I	01	Mapping psychoacoustical, neurophysiological and cognitive benefits of yoga and meditation: A cross- sectional study across age.	Rs.31,000/- + HRA @18% per month.	Initially for a period of 12 months & extendable based on performance.
4	Research Officer	02	Effect of cochlear implantation on middle ear and saccular function.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	Initially for a period of 12 months (extendable up to 2 years or until further orders)
5	Research Officer	01	Evidence for Efficacy of Electrotherapy in Management of Oro-Pharyngeal Dysphagia: A Systematic Review and Scope for meta-analysis.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	12 months.
6	Research Officer	01	Efficacy of ultrasound imaging techniques as biofeedback for speech sound correction in children with hearing impairment.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	12 months.
7	Research Officer	01	Development of Communication strategies Training (CST) module for adults with hearing impairment: A preliminary study on training efficacy in offline and online modes.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	12 months.
8	Audiologist Grade I	01	DHLS: AIIPMR, Mumbai.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	12 months.
9	Speech Lang. Pathologist Gr. I	01	DHLS: JLNMCH, Bhagalpur.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	12 months.
10	Speech Lang. Pathologist Gr. I	01	DHLS: RIMS, Ranchi.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	12 months.
11	Audiologist / SLP Grade I	01	DHLS: SCBMC, Cuttack.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	12 months.
12	Audiologist Grade I	01	NBS: SDUAHER, Kolar.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	12 months.
13	Audiologist Grade I	01	NBS: AIIPMR, Mumbai.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	12 months.
14	Audiologist Grade I	01	OSC: BRIMS, Bidar.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	12 months.
15	Speech Lang. Pathologist Gr. I	01	OSC: MGMMC, Indore.	Rs.39,000/- per month and no other allowances are admissible.	12 months.

Interested candidates may please visit the Institute website **'www.aiishmysore.in'** for details as regards to educational qualification, age, experience etc., and general instructions with regard to applying for the above said posts. The application forms downloaded from the website should accompany the prescribed application fee for all posts otherwise the application will be rejected.

The last date for submission of filled in application forms is **16.08.2023 at 05.30 p.m.**

Dated: 01.08.2023

Sd/-
Director

INBRIEF

SC appoints former Delhi HC judge as DERC interim chief

The Supreme Court on Friday nominated former Delhi High Court judge Justice Jayant Nath as *pro tem* chairperson of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) after the Delhi government and the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) failed to reach a consensus on a name. A three-judge Bench said the L-G and the Chief Minister in consultation with Justice Nath would notify his honorarium. The court was compelled to intervene as the DERC had remained headless for months due to a deadlock between L-G V.K. Saxena and the government. It clarified that the person it nominated would only discharge the functions of a chairperson on an *ad hoc* basis.

Court grants anticipatory bail to Tytler in anti-Sikh riots case

A Delhi court on Friday granted anticipatory bail to Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case. Special judge Vikas Dhull granted the anticipatory bail on Mr. Tytler furnishing a bond of ₹1 lakh. He also imposed certain conditions on Mr. Tytler, including that he will not tamper with the evidence in the case or leave the country without its permission. The CBI had filed chargesheet against Mr. Tytler on May 20. The case relates to death of three Sikhs and setting fire to a Gurdwara in the Pul Bangash area on November 1, 1984 a day after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards.

Amarnath Yatra from Jammu to remain suspended today

The Amarnath Yatra will remain suspended from the Jammu base camp on Saturday, with sources saying it is a precautionary measure in view of the fourth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370. "The Amarnath Yatra will remain suspended tomorrow," Jammu Deputy Commissioner Avny Lavasa told PTI. She, however, did not cite any reason for it. Sources said the decision was taken as a precautionary measure in view of the fourth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370. In view of the fourth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, security has been beefed up in the city, they added. PTI

Delhi HC seeks response on INDIA acronym petition

The Delhi High Court on Friday asked the Union government, the Election Commission of India, and 26 political parties to respond to a petition seeking to restrain Opposition parties from using the acronym INDIA – which stands for the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance – for their coalition. A Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Amit Mahajan issued notices to respond to the petition filed by Mr. Girish Bharadwaj, saying that it "requires hearing". The Bench, however, refused to grant any interim relief at this stage and said that no order could be passed without hearing the Opposition parties.

3 killed, 17 missing as landslip hits shops on Kedarnath route

Nepali shopowners, their families, and tourists are among those missing in incident near the yatra base camp; Uttarakhand CM Dhami directs that arrangements be made for stranded pilgrims

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Three people were killed and 17 are missing after a major landslip hit shanty shops at Gaurikund in Uttarakhand – the base camp for Kedarnath temple – on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. Triggered by heavy rain, the landslip is the biggest natural calamity on the Kedarnath route since the flash floods that left over 6,000 dead a decade ago.

Nandan Singh Rajwar, district disaster management officer, told *The Hindu* that the rescue operations started in the early hours of Friday and continued till late afternoon. "The team of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) managed to recover three bodies till 4 p.m. on Friday, while 17 people are still missing. We had to halt the rescue operations due to rain and lack of light," he said.

First responders: The SDRF personnel conduct a rescue operation on Friday after the landslip in Gaurikund. PTI

Shops washed away

Witnesses said heavy rain lashed the area on Thursday night.

Around 11.30 p.m., a large part of the hill broke off with a loud sound and fell on a roadside shop and a *dhaba* before crashing into the river. When residents reached the spot, they heard cries for help coming from the gorge and found that two shops had been washed away.

The shops hit by the landslip were owned by people from Nepal, who have been living in Uttarakhand for some time. One of these shops is owned by Amar Bohra, whose wife Anita and five children are among those missing. Three tourists, who were at his shop, are also missing.

The other shop washedis owned by Bir Bahadur, who is also missing, along with his wife Sumita, daughter Nisha, and two tourists.

Arrangements for yatris

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami took stock of the rescue operations on Friday and issued instructions to the officials concerned to make proper arrangements for the stranded Kedarnath yatris.

SC dismisses plea challenging Goel's appointment as EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Arun Goel

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a petition challenging the appointment of Arun Goel as Election Commissioner.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna declined to issue notice in the petition filed by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), while observing that a Constitution Bench of the court had considered the issue of Mr. Goel's appointment and had eventually decided not to quash it.

In March, a Constitution Bench had said that the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners should be appointed by the President on the advice tendered by a committee of Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha or leader of the single largest party in Opposition and the Chief Justice of India.

Advocates Prashant Bhushan and Cheryl D'Souza, for ADR, on Friday argued that the entire process of selection of Election Commissioner was completed in a day between November 18 and 19 last year. The vacancy was filled "just one day after the Constitution Bench started hearing the matter". Mr. Bhushan said the appointment was "arbitrary and violative of institutional integrity and independence of Election Commission Of India".

Sahara investors get 1st tranche of refunds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday initiated the process of refunding the money of over two crore depositors of four cooperatives of the Sahara Group, which is being investigated by multiple agencies for money laundering and financial embezzlement.

An initial refund of ₹10,000 each was transferred to the bank accounts of 112 investors.

Mr. Shah said so far 18 lakh depositors have registered on the 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal', which was launched on July 18.

He said the next tranche of funds would be transferred as soon as the audit is completed. "I want to assure and I am fully confident that all depositors will get their funds in the coming days," he said.

Shake the trust

He said many times such incidents happen that shake the trust in cooperation.

However, it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that investors' money is safe and returned to them.

Sahara depositors were not getting their money back for past 12 to 15 years because of the management fault and delay in court litigations, he said.

Nursing students can opt to study foreign language

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry for the first time has initiated the addition of foreign languages as an optional subject/course in B.Sc. Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) programmes.

The Indian Nursing Council (INC) has issued a notification on August 2, announcing the new initiative aimed at promoting internationalisation in education. The programme also hopes to enhance the overall personality development of nursing students and equip them with a valuable skill set for their future careers.

The Nursing Council wants to promote internationalisation in education. FILE PHOTO

The optional foreign language courses will provide nursing students with an additional advantage during their degree/diploma programme. Students will have the opportunity to choose from a range of foreign languages including French, German, Greek, Latin, Irish, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese, among others. This diverse array of language options ensures that students can select a language that aligns with their interests and career aspirations, said a senior official.

Equitable education

The language courses will be conducted by hiring specific language teachers, and the expenses for hiring these teachers will be borne by the respective nursing institutions. The INC has emphasised that participating students shall not be charged exorbitant fees for these optional language modules.

Three Army men killed in encounter in Kulgam

Press Trust of India
SRINAGAR

Three Army personnel were killed in an encounter with militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday, officials said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the higher reaches of the Halan forest area of Kulgam district in south Kashmir following inputs about the presence of militants there, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the militants fired at the security forces, who retaliated.

NIA registers supplementary chargesheet against 4 in PFI case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday filed a supplementary chargesheet against four persons in connection with a case alleging commission of unlawful and anti-national acts by the now-banned Popular Front of India (PFI) in Patna.

The fresh chargesheet has been filed against Mohammed Tanweer, Mohammed Aabid, Mohammed Belal and Mohammed Irshad Alam, all residents of East Champaran in Bihar. The four alleged PFI members had been working in conspiracy with the other co-accused to commit violent criminal acts by arranging arms and ammunition and in propagating the PFI's ideology of "violent extremism", the agency said.

Hindi is not in competition with local languages, says Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday that Hindi must be finally accepted without opposition, even if the pace of acceptance is slow. Mr. Shah chaired the 38th meeting of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language on Friday.

He said Hindi is not in competition with local languages, the nation will be empowered only by promoting all Indian languages. During the meeting, the 12th volume of the report of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language was also approved.

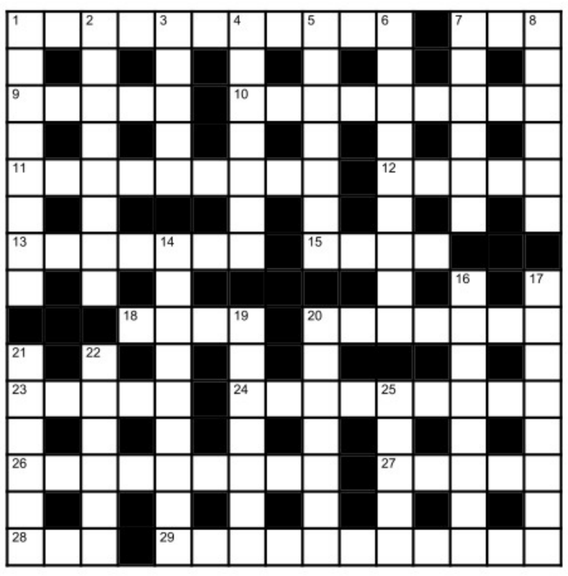
Mr. Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has encouraged the promotion of "*Panch Pran*" (five vows), including respect for heritage and erasing the signs of colonialism.

TH CROSSWORD + 13936

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Pageantries, made up or make up? (6,5)
7 Bag of starch picked regularly (3)
9 Live in the valley, drinking whiskey (5)
10 Have a blast with a party, it's a matter of taste (9)
11 Picks up money outside practice (9)
12 Sharp turnover of public transport (5)
13 Partners adopt orphan girl as caretakers (7)
15 Nobody for the opponents to take on (4)
18 Only discharge work (4)
20 Go for recognised player, they say (7)
23 Boxing team - our display of love (5)
24 Misplaced glory etched in stone of sorts, it's much sought after (4,5)
26 Man and wife, one from the Northern islands (9)
27 Global Times featuring mountain people (5)
28 Chennai once was half crazy (3)
29 Long comical soap opera, finally medic comes in with one of his instruments (11)

Down

1 Correct, and agree it's something to do with headlong rush (8)
2 Neat arrangement, getting help perhaps from a Jumbo (8)
3 Twice as large in the middle to set up a dance... (5)
4 ...as we support stake for a horse (7)
5 Slight shortage in vital hormone (7)
6 Money to procure organs, to come under attacks (5,4)
7 "End of dynasties" - people in India with a new battle cry (6)
8 Animal quiet with broken toe (6)
14 Just ties in to become anti-imperialist (9)
16 Built so large, one enters the harem (8)
17 Ventured into a river in Australia (8)
19 Leaders say can provide help shift inside, so haul it (7)
20 Give rise to mistake, beer taken regularly is still a beer (7)
21 Comprehend a well upholstered home, in short (6)
22 Supporting an offer? Deny (6)
25 Taunts as soldiers get to live (5)

SUDOKU

	9							
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5						3	8	
		1	6		9			7
	3						6	
9			1		5	4		
	8	3						6
1	5		7		2			
							5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS5879 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

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I		B		E		U		R		L		G		R
C	H	R	O	N	I	C	L	E		A	M	A	S	S
E		E				K				I				E
	L	A	R	D		L	I	G	A	M	E	N	T	
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R			G				P				A		E	
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O		T		E		E		E		M		E		T
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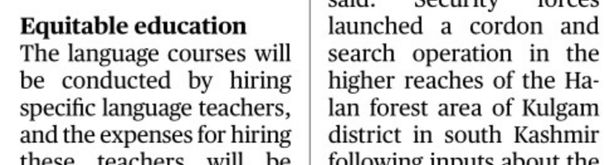
Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	2	5	9	1	4	8	3
1	4	3	7	6	8	9	2	5
5	8	9	3	4	2	7	6	1
3	1	4	6	8	5	2	9	7
9	7	8	1	2	3	6	5	4
6	2	5	9	7	4	1	3	8
4	3	6	8	1	9	5	7	2
2	5	7	4	3	6	8	1	9
8	9	1	2	5	7	3	4	6



FAITH

Thirumanthiram's greatness

Thirumanthiram, Dwayam and Charamasloka are the three essential rahasya mantras, and Lord Narayana Himself has revealed these great mantras, Sri Venkatakrishnan Swamy said in a discourse. Incarnated as Nara and Narayana at Badrikasramam, the Lord as Narayana taught the Thirumanthiram to Nara, the disciple. In the heavenly abode, the Lord has told His divine consort Mahalakshmi the Dwayamanthra and Lord as Krishna has taught Arjuna the Charamasloka in the Bhagavad Gita.

In the early days, a teacher would teach only one disciple at a time, but it was Sri Ramanuja, the great saint and social reformer, who changed the practice and started to teach as many at a time so that it would reach to all those who were interested.

The great Acharya Pillai Lokachariyar has written 18 commentary works and the first seven deal with Rahasya mantras. '*Mumukshuppadi*' is written lucidly in the form of sutras to understand more about these mantras. The mantras should be chanted only in a murmuring voice.

Thirumanthiram is considered great because it talks about five aspects as narrated in Arthapanchakam – the nature of God; the nature of one's self; the means to attain Him; the various obstacles that stand in the way (*Oozhvinai/karma*); and the ultimate objective (liberation).

TULKARM

Palestinians bury 18-year-old killed in West Bank by Israeli forces

AP

Hundreds of mourners gathered on Friday for the funeral of a Palestinian teenager killed by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank earlier during the day. In a statement, the Palestinian Health Ministry said 18-year-old Mahmoud Abu Saan was "killed this morning by live bullets from the occupation (Israel) in Tulkarm". AFP

BANGKOK

Eight persons killed as freight train collides with truck in Thailand

AP

Eight persons were killed on Friday when a freight train hit a pick-up truck trying to cross the tracks in central Thailand. The crash took place around at 0050 IST at an unauthorised crossing in Chachoengsao the east of Bangkok. Eight persons — five men and three women — died in the collision. Four more were injured. AFP

BEIJING

China to remove tariffs on Australian barley as ties improve

AFP

China will remove extra tariffs on Australian barley, in the latest thawing of ties between the two after years of tensions. Beijing imposed hefty levies on key Australian exports such as barley, beef and wine in 2020, leveraging its economic muscle at the height of a bitter dispute with the then-conservative government. AFP

BUCHAREST

Romania court lifts house arrest order of Andrew Tate and brother

AP

A Romanian court Friday lifted a house arrest order on controversial influencer Andrew Tate and his brother as the men await trial on human trafficking charges. Tate — a self-described misogynist with a large online presence — has also been indicted on charges of rape and forming a criminal group to sexually exploit women. AFP

Russian warship damaged as Ukraine targets Black Sea port with drones

The Novorossiysk port hosts a naval base, shipbuilding yards and an oil terminal and is key for exports; it lies about 110 kilometres east of Crimea, where Russia's Defence Ministry said it thwarted another attack overnight

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukraine said its sea drones struck a major Russian port on Friday and damaged a warship in an attack that underlined Kyiv's growing capabilities as the Black Sea becomes an increasingly important battleground in the war.

The strike on Novorossiysk – which halted maritime traffic for a few hours – marks the first time a commercial Russian port has been targeted in the nearly 18-month-old conflict. The Black Sea port – which hosts a naval base, shipbuilding yards and an oil terminal and is key for exports – lies about 110 kilometres east of Crimea, where Russia's Defence Ministry said it thwarted another attack overnight.

Suprise attack: A drone manoeuvers as it approaches a Russian landing ship close to the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk. AP

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and the country's Navy carried out the attack that damaged *Olenegorsky Gornyak*, a landing vessel of the Russian Navy, according to an official with the security service. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to give the information to the media, said the attack made the ship unable to perform combat missions.

Friday's attack is the latest in a series of strikes inside Russia. It also reflects an increase in fighting in the Black Sea following Moscow's withdrawal from a deal that allowed Ukraine to export its grain through the waterway. On Wednesday, Russian drones caused significant damage and a huge fire at grain facilities in the Odesa region. A day earlier, the Russian military said Kyiv's forces tried to attack two of its patrol vessel at sea southwest of the Russian-controlled city of Sevastopol in Moscow-annexed Crimea.

Changing rules

Mykhailo Podolyak, an advisor to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, heralded the latest attack, saying it showed "drones are changing the rules of the game ... and ultimately destroying the value of the Russian fleet."

Russia's Navy has controlled the seas in the war so far. Its ships have regularly launched cruise missiles at major ports and cities across Ukraine, and they have blockaded the country's coast as well as mining the Black Sea, making passage through it treacherous. Podolyak's remarks and other recent attacks in the sea and on the Kerch Bridge connecting Crimea to Russia could indicate Ukraine is trying to change that dynamic.

The end of the grain deal, under which ships carrying food from Ukrainian ports were promised safe passage, "untied Kyiv's hands," Ukrainian military analyst Roman Svytan said, predicting the frequency of attacks on Russian ships would only increase.

Court temporarily halts Imran's trial over sale of state gifts

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Imran Khan

In a temporary relief for Imran Khan, a Pakistani High Court on Friday set aside the verdict of a lower court and asked it to rehear a corruption case in which the embattled former Prime Minister is accused of profiting from selling expensive state gifts when he was in power.

The court ruling came ahead of the general elections in Pakistan which Mr. Khan hopes to win. The term of the National Assembly will end on August 12 and the current government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is expected to dissolve the Lower House on August 9.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday had reserved judgment on multiple petitions by the 70-year-old Mr. Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, against his trial by a district court in the case of illegal sale of state gifts from the Toshakhana.

The Toshakhana issue over the sale of state gifts received by the former cricketer-turned-politician became a major issue in national politics after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) disqualified Mr. Khan on October 21, 2022, for making "false statements and incorrect declaration".

The Toshakhana is a department under the Cabinet Division that stores gifts given to rulers and government officials by heads of other governments and foreign dignitaries. Mr. Khan bought some of the gifts, including a precious watch, and sold the same for profit.

Announcing the judgement, IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq also ordered the session court to decide the matter of maintainability again after a fresh hearing of the case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar is hearing the Toshakhana case.

A sessions court in Islamabad last month declared that the ECP case against Mr. Khan was maintainable, which was challenged in the IHC.

However, the IHC rejected Mr. Khan's appeal to transfer the case to another court. It also issued a notice for next week on the appeal to restore the right of defence.

Mr. Khan had filed a petition on Thursday seeking the right to defence in the case.

Pakistan passes Bill to meet FATF demands

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Senate on Friday gave its nod to a Bill to establish a new authority to curb money laundering and terror financing, a legislation which is expected to help the country not to be on the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) again.

On Thursday, the National Assembly passed the Bill, which seeks to form a central authority to curb money laundering and terror financing, bringing all institutions related to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) under one command.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar moved the "National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Authority Bill" in the Senate, a day after it was passed by the National Assembly.

According to the draft Bill, the authority will be headed by a chairman who will be appointed by the Prime Minister.

The authority can convene meetings on the requisition of the chairman or half of its members.

Pakistan was placed on the grey list of the FATF in 2018 and had to make a huge effort to get out of it in 2021.

Russia jails Navalny for 19 more years for 'extremism'

Agence France-Presse
MELEKHOVO

Russia on Friday handed jailed Opposition leader Alexei Navalny 19 years behind bars on extremism charges.

The heavy sentence against Mr. Navalny is the latest in a string of lawsuits against Russians who have protested Russia's intervention in Ukraine.

Mr. Navalny is already serving a nine-year sentence in a maximum-security prison for "embezzlement", a charge that his supporters say was trumped up in retaliation for challenging President Vladimir Putin.

Mutinous soldiers in Niger sever French military ties while 'hostage' President pleads for U.S. help

Associated Press
NIAMEY

Niger's military junta says it is severing military agreements with France, its former colonial ruler, firing some of the previous government's key ambassadors and warning citizens of the West African nation to watch for foreign Armies and spies. A regional delegation's efforts at negotiation quickly deadlocked.

Two-day deadline

With two days remaining before a deadline set by the West African regional bloc to release and reinstate President Mohamed Bazoum or face possible force, Mr. Bazoum in a plea published in a Washington Post opinion piece said, "I write this as a hostage" and urged the U.S. and partners to help.

Niger's mutinous soldiers face a Sunday deadline set by the regional bloc known as ECOWAS, whose envoys arrived on Thursday for talks. But those discussions stalled, with the delegation unable to meet the coup leader, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, or go into the capital, Niamey, according to a person with close knowledge of the talks.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIV. SIROHI
No.SE/Acctt./NIB/2023-24/2481-2503 Date:13/07/2023

Notice Inviting Bid No - 13/2023-24

NIB Code : PWD2324A1717
Bids for **Construction of Various Road / Building Work** are invited from interested bidders upto **6.00 PM, 07 Aug., 2023.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and PWD departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs.450.33 Lacs.**
UBN:
1. PWD2324WSOB08204 2. PWD2324WSOB08205 3. PWD2324WSOB08206 4. PWD2324WSOB08207 5. PWD2324WSOB08208

(Ajit Jain)
Executive Engineer
PWD Div. Sirohi
DIPR/C/11293

Office of the Superintending Engineer PHED, Project
Circle, Jaipur, Sector 26, Near Ayush Bhawan, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur
Email: sedtuprojectjaipur@yahoo.in
Notice Inviting Bid(NIB) No. 02/2023-24
Behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, online short term bid is invited from eligible bidders for the Work for "Construction of Intake, WTP at Masi Dam, Pump house and connecting it with CWR for Conjunctive use including O & M work for ten years after one year Defect liability Period for Bisalpur-Niwai-Tonk Water Supply Project under JJM (Package-III)" for costing of Rs. 23.11 Crores, last date of submision is 16.08.2023 upto 06:00PM. As per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT / tender document available on website: http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
UBN: PHE2324WLOB05250

(Bharat Meena)
Superintending Engineer
PHED, Project Circle,
Jaipur
DIPR/C/11101

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Office of the Director General Telangana State Disaster Response & Fire Services, Hyderabad.
Rc.No.1307/MSB/2023 Dated: -07-2023.
NOTIFICATION
"Government vide G.O. Ms. No.44 Home (Services. IV) Department, dated: 24-06-2023 has issued guidelines for Empanelment of Third Party Audits, Empanelment of Third Party vendor, uploading of reports etc.,The said G.O. is available in the Departmental website: **https://fire.telangana.gov.in/.** In view of the above, the agencies/vendors interested to get the Empanelment with the Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services Department may submit their application with all the required enclosures as per the Government G.O. within one month from the date of notification or 15-08-2023 whichever is earlier.
2. The applicants for empanelment may be sent in full shape to Director General, State Disaster Response & Fire Service, 2nd Floor, CID Building, Lakdikapul, Hyderabad- 500004. (Ph: 040-23442955)
Sd/- Director General, Telangana State Disaster Response & Fire Services, Hyderabad
DIPR R.O.No.4985-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24 Dt. 04-08-2023

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in
No.IADB/ENGG/PMC/EPTND-EP-02/141/2023-24 Date:04.08.2023
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Tender under two cover system are invited under Quality Based Consultancy System (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms as per the schedule given below for the following works.
Name of the work: (1) Formation of Residential at Hassan Industrial Area, Hassan Taluk & District. (2) Upgradation of 5MLD Capacity Water Supply Scheme at Gorur to Growth Centre & other Industrial Areas of Hassan. (3) Formation of Industrial Layout at Kanive Aladahalli Village, Shanthi Hobli, Hassan Taluk & Doothanur Kaval Dandinahalli Hobli, Channarayapatana Taluk, Hassan District.
Last date for submission of bids is: **19.08.2023 upto 04:00 pm**
Applicants may download bidding documents from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2
DIPR/CP/JA/776/2023-24

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, जयपुर क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, गांधी नगर, जयपुर
ई-मेल:-ace.region2jaipur@yahoo.com फोन नं. -0141-2702700
क्रमांक:-अ.मु.अ. क्षे-2/2023-24/4981-4999 दिनांक: 26.07.2023
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से "Replacement of Old Polluted Pipelines Service Connections and Augmentation work in Chowkdi in purani basti topkhana desh with 5 year O&M after one year defect liability period under Jurisdiction of City Div- II (North) Jaipur" कार्य हेतु जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवं दूरसंचार विभाग /रेल्वे इत्यादि में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया द्वारा निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत निविदा एवं निविदा प्रपत्र www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

क्रम संख्या	एन.आई.बी. कोड	यु.बी.एन. कोड	निविदा संख्या
1	PHE2324A2329	PHE2324WLOB05385	35/2023-24

(अजय सिंह राठौड़)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, जयपुर क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, जयपुर
DIPR/C/11180/2023

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES ZONE JAIPUR
No.2047 Date: 25/7/23
Short Term E-NIB No-11/2023-24
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, bid for the work "Construction of Lining work of Gadwar Minor Needer Dam Tehsil Mandrayal District Karauli Rs. 372.58 Lac" is invited from eligible bidders up to 06:00 PM on dated 07.08.2023 and financial bid will be opened on dated 08.08.2023 at 3:00 PM.
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
NIB No. WRD2324A0285
UBN No. WRD2324WSOB00840
Additional Chief Engineer
Water Resources zone
Jaipur
DIPR/C/11137

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, मदुरै
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
Madurai (Tamil Nadu)
Under PMSSY Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
JIPMER, Puducherry - Mentor Institute
No. JIP/AIIMS-MDU/Admin-I/DR/1(1)/2023 Date: 05.08.2023
Executive Director, AIIMS, Madurai invites applications from eligible Indian nationals for the following posts:-

Sl No.	Post Code	Name of the Post	Number of Posts & Reservation: Total Posts	UR	EWS	OBC	SC	ST
GROUP B POST								
1.	262023	Library and Information Assistant	01	01	-	-	-	-
2.	272023	Technicians (Laboratory)	01	01	-	-	-	-
3.	282023	Warden	02	02	-	-	-	-
		TOTAL [Group B]	04	04	-	-	-	-
GROUP C POST								
1.	292023	Stenographer	01	01	-	-	-	-
2.	302023	Upper Division Clerk	02	02	-	-	-	-
3.	312023	Lower Division Clerk	01	01	-	-	-	-
		TOTAL [Group C]	04	04	-	-	-	-
		Gr.B + Gr.C posts Total	08	08				

Note: ***The number of posts is tentative and may change based on the requirement of the Institute. Any change will be notified only on JIPMER website before the selection examination (www.jipmer.edu.in).***
1. Details regarding upper age, qualification, experience, application fees, mode of examination / payment and other conditions of eligibility etc. for the post are available at: **www.jipmer.edu.in.**
2. Applications should be submitted **online** only. Online Registration will tentatively start from **05.08.2023**.
The last date for closing of online application is **30.08.2023 till 04:30 PM**.
Executive Director
AIIMS, Madurai

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Shamima Khatoon**, Daughter of **MD Mainuddin @ Maizuddin,** of 39/H/10, Ekbalpore Lane, Kol-23, was found missing since on & before 29.03.23 from Sarkar Bagan, PO-Andul Mouri, PS-Sankrail, Howrah. Description Rolls of the Missing Subject: **Age-**23 years, **Height-**5', **Complexion-**Fair, **Built-**Medium. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, or contact to the Officer-In-Charge, Missing Person Squad, Detective Department, Lalbazar, Kolkata. (Contact No-9830321497/ 9674987239/9051203555
ICA- D1497(2)/2023

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CHENNAI DIVISION
(MECHANICAL BRANCH)
E-Tender Notice No.
Mech_MAS_BBQ_2023_2
Dated: 02.08.2023
For and on behalf of the President of India The Divisional Railway Manager / Mechanical Branch / Chennai Division, Chennai - 600 003 invites ONLINE tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the e-tender Portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer(s) / contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for Mechanical works in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.
Description: **Revamping & AMOC of Water Re-cycling Plant capacity 10 Lakh Lit / Per day using MBBR Technology at BBQ Depot;** Location: **Basin Bridge Depot;** Advertised tender Value in : ₹ **1,20,38,898/-;** Earnest Money Deposit in : ₹ **2,10,200/-;** Similar Nature of Work : **Applicable;** Period of completion in months: **42 Months;**
Tender closing date and time: **24.08.2023 @ 15:00 hrs.** Details of value of tender, tender form cost, EMD are given in e-portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** For details bid submission please refer to web portal **www.ireps.gov.in**
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

INBRIEF

Apple logs revenue record in India on robust iPhone sales

Apple set a June quarter revenue record in India, driven by robust sales of iPhone, with CEO Tim Cook saying the company is "pleased" with the growth. The top brass pledged to put its energies into tapping the huge opportunity given Apple is still "very modest and (has) low share in this smartphone market". India figured prominently in the iPhone maker's latest earnings call, as the firm highlighted how the performance of newly opened stores here exceeded expectations. PTI

Shriram Life Q1 PAT falls 10%, total premium surges

Shriram Life Insurance reported profit after tax for the quarter ended June declined more than 10% to ₹35.4 crore from ₹39.6 crore in the year-earlier period, even as total premium surged almost 82% to ₹717 crore (₹394 crore). New business premium, which includes both individual as well as group policies, stood at ₹488 crore (₹207 crore). During the quarter, the insurer sold 56,493 policies as against 58,436 in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

Repco Home Finance Q1 net rises 44% to ₹89 crore

Repco Home Finance Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the June quarter increased 44% from the year earlier period to ₹89 crore. Net interest income rose 18% to ₹162 crore, while revenue from operations increased to ₹364 crore from ₹302 crore. Net interest margin improved to 5.1% from 4.6%, the lender said. The company's gross non performing assets (NPAs) declined to 5.5% from 6.4% and net NPAs to 2.8% from 4.2%. Provisional coverage ratio was 51.4%.

DGFT suspends its laptop, PC import curbs till November 1

Officials acknowledge that Customs field officers have held up some in-transit hardware shipments due to the DGFT import restriction notification specifying 'immediate effect'; imports will now be allowed without need for a licence till November

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Temporary relief: IT hardware can now be imported without licensing until October 31, the DGFT said late on Friday. REUTERS

A day after it issued a notification restricting imports of laptops, PCs, tablets and servers to India 'with immediate effect', the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on Friday suspended implementation of the notification until November 1, after Customs officials stationed at ports of entry started holding up shipments of the specified electronics items.

Separately, government officials also sought to assure industry that most applicants seeking licenses for import of the restricted electronics products would receive them promptly upon filing the required application.

Two officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, admitted that while it was not intended to have import licensing of these products impact shipments that were already on their way to India, Customs "field officers" had worked to implement the new rule immediately after it was notified by the DGFT on Thursday. The government would now work to clear these shipments, the officials added.

'Self-sufficiency'

The officials said the move was an effort "to bring in self-sufficiency in electronics production," even as they asserted the import curbs had nothing to do with the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware.

Asked about the economics of local manufacturing – most IT hardware in the now-restricted category is imported from China where most major PC suppliers have manufacturing facilities – one official admitted the response to the PLI scheme's previous iteration had not been "as expected".

The official asserted that 'over time' the cost of domestically produced hardware would come down.

SBI Q1 net almost triples to ₹16,884 cr. on loan growth

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Dinesh Khara

State Bank of India (SBI) reported first-quarter net profit almost tripled to ₹16,884 crore, from ₹6,068 crore in the year-earlier period on account of improvement in asset quality and loan growth. This is the lender's highest-ever net profit in a quarter.

"The high profit is due to lower non-performing assets, lower provisioning and increase in the loan book," Chairman Dinesh Khara said at a press conference on Friday.

During the quarter ended June 30, SBI's net interest income (NII) increased by 24.7% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹38,905 crore. The net interest margin was 3.47% as compared with 3.23% a year earlier, up 24 basis points (bps). Loan loss provision during the quarter declined 38% to ₹2,652 crore.

Mr. Khara said the quarter witnessed credit growth of 13.9% YoY with domestic advances growing by 15.1%. "There was robust growth across segments," he added.

Gross NPA (non-performing assets) was down at ₹91,328 crore as compared with ₹1,13,272 crore a year earlier. And net NPA declined to ₹22,995 crore, from ₹28,258 crore as of end June 2022.

M&M Q1 net surges 60% to ₹3,508 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) reported first quarter consolidated net profit grew 60% to ₹3,508 crore as compared with ₹2,196 crore a year earlier due to a 'stellar' show by its Auto, Financial Services and Farm equipment divisions.

"Operating leverage drove improvement in profits by 2.2x in Auto, 58% in Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Service Ltd. (MMFSL) and 21% in Farm," the company said in a filing. "This coupled with capital allocation actions and monetisation resulted in significant step up in Group's profitability," it added.

Income from operations during the quarter at ₹33,891.63 crore grew 19% year-over-year.

"During Q1, our businesses across Auto, Farm and Services delivered a strong performance," Anish Shah, MD & CEO, M&M Ltd. said in a statement. "Auto led the way by strengthening its market leadership position and doubling its operating profit," he added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,721	0.74
US Dollar	82.81	-0.08
Gold	60,100	0.00
Brent oil	86.04	1.55

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2541.80	9.20
Adani Ports	775.25	1.90
Apollo Hosp	4980.30	-16.00
Asian Paints	3339.65	3.30
Axis Bank	952.25	16.70
Bajaj Auto	4712.00	-114.30
Bajaj Finserv	1486.30	-7.35
Bajaj Finance	7148.70	40.35
Bharti Airtel	889.65	17.95
BPCL	360.40	-7.60
Britannia Ind	4798.50	-0.45
Cipla	1209.75	43.90
Coal India	233.75	3.70
Divis Lab	3745.40	19.10
Dr Reddys Lab	5649.55	-9.95
Dummy - Jio Financial Services Ltd.	261.85	0.00
Eicher Motors	3359.55	-20.15
Grasim Ind	1825.45	-5.10
HCL Tech	1144.35	18.85
HDFC Bank	1652.20	23.55
HDFC Life	642.20	9.50
Hero MotoCorp	2944.70	-7.70
Hindalco	457.00	3.70
Hind Unilever	2546.00	-5.30
ICICI Bank	970.50	5.50
IndusInd Bank	1409.60	45.10
Infosys	1378.35	14.05
ITC	454.95	-1.10
JSW Steel	805.95	1.50
Kotak Bank	1838.50	15.25
L&T	2626.90	28.80
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4940.90	71.00
M&M	1464.65	-4.50
Maruti Suzuki	9470.40	-73.30
NestleIndia	22454.50	-21.30
NTPC	217.95	-2.15
ONGC	173.35	1.25
PowerGrid Corp	247.35	-1.35
Reliance Ind	2509.55	33.65
SBI Life	1267.90	14.15
State Bank	573.30	-17.20
Sun Pharma	1138.95	-2.05
TataConsumerProduct	834.80	-0.60
Tata Motors	615.00	-3.95
Tata Steel	119.00	0.80
TCS	3443.55	43.60
Tech Mahindra	1175.20	32.40
Titan	2904.40	2.30
UltraTech Cement	8158.15	22.00
UPL	603.35	2.90
Wipro	408.85	9.20

EXCHANGE RATES

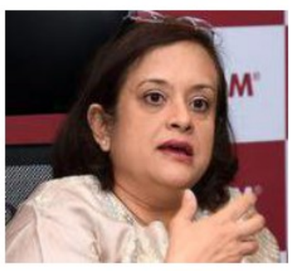
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 04

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.64	82.96
Euro	90.43	90.79
British Pound	104.95	105.36
Japanese Yen (100)	57.86	58.09
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.55
Swiss Franc	94.17	94.55
Singapore Dollar	61.51	61.76
Canadian Dollar	61.83	62.07
Malaysian Ringitt	18.14	18.23
Australian Dollar	54.14	54.35

Source:Indian Bank

Personal data bill will boost digital economy, says Nasscom

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



> DPDP is a giant step forward towards establishing India as a trusted innovation partner for the world
>
> **DEBJANI GHOSH**
> President, Nasscom

Ensuring comprehensive data protection is paramount for accelerating India's digital economy and the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill strikes a harmonious balance between flexibility and data privacy measures, industry apex body Nasscom said on Friday.

Terming the bill as tech-agnostic, Nasscom president Debjani Ghosh said it was expected to cater to the dynamic digital ecosystem and help stimulate India's digital thought leadership globally. "This is a giant step forward towards establishing India as a trusted innovation partner for the world. This marks a significant leap forward for India to establish a robust framework for personal data protection and build India as a trusted data destination," she added.

The Union Cabinet's approval of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill was a significant milestone that would bolster trust and solidify India's position as a global leading innovation hub, she further said. "This bill holds immense importance in today's digital landscape, where data is integral to every industry and nation."

According to Ms. Ghosh, the bill has been a key ask from the technology industry and Nasscom has been working with the government from the start to share insights and analysis on global regulations and has provided detailed submissions right through the evolution of the regulation.

IRDAI lets insurers hold HDFC investments till maturity

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has clarified that bonds/debentures held by insurers in the erstwhile HDFC under the 'housing and infrastructure' category as on April 4, 2022, when the merger of the mortgage lender with HDFC Bank was announced, will be treated as investments in the same category till maturity of the respective instruments.

Exemption till June 30

It also exempted the insurers from complying with the single investee equity exposure norms, under IRDAI regulations, for individual segregated fund at SFIN level with regard to shares of HDFC Bank (post-merger) till June 30, 2024.

Insurers seek clarity

The exemption will only be with respect to holdings of the respective insurers as on June 30, 2023, and the same shall be scaled down to the extent of sale of shares thereafter, the regulator said in a circular.

Insurers had earlier approached IRDAI for a clarification, in the wake of HDFC Bank's merger with its parent, as to whether their investments in HDFC bonds would continue to be allowed to be classified under the 'housing and infrastructure sector'.

They had also sought exemption from the single investee equity exposure limits prescribed for segregated funds of ULIP with respect to investments in the equity shares of HDFC Bank (post-merger), Ammu Venkata Ramana, General Manager (F&I) at IRDAI, was cited as having said in the circular.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI
[Chief Engineer (Bridges) Department]
No. Ch E/6000/Bridges, dated 04.08.2023

E-TENDER NOTICE

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation invites e-tender to appoint contractor for the Construction of Mumbai Coastal Road Project North Versova to Dahisar from Contractors of Repute, Multidisciplinary Engineering Organizations, i.e., Eminent Firms, Proprietary/ Partnership Firms/ Private Limited Companies/ Public Limited Companies/ Companies registered under the Indian Companies Act 2013, the Contractors registered with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in Class as mentioned in table below as per new registration or those having equivalent or more work experience from Central or State Government/ Semi Govt. Organization/ Central or State Public Sector Undertaking, will be allowed subject to condition that, the contractors who are not registered with BMC will have to apply for registering their firm within, three months' time period from the award of contract, otherwise their Bid Security i.e. E.M.D. (Earnest Money Deposit) will be forfeited/ recovered and a penalty of 0.1% of contract or Rs. 10,000 whichever is more will be recovered/ deducted from the contractor's payment/ bill by the executing department. Bidding process will comprise of three stages.

Construction of Mumbai Coastal Road Project North-Versova to Dahisar constitutes of 06 (Six) Packages and their details are mentioned in the table below:

Sr. No.	Package	Name of Work	Tender ID/ Bid No.	Class	EMD in Rs.	Contract Period	Tender Scrutiny Fee in Rs.
1	Package A	From Versova to Bangur Nagar (Chainage - from Ch. 0+000 To Ch. 4+540)	2023_ MCGM_930187_1	Class I (A) and above	25,00,00,000	48 months (including monsoon)	25,000 + 18% GST
2	Package B	From Bangur Nagar to Mindspace Malad & GMLR Connector (Versova Dahisar Coastal Road Chainage: from Ch. 4+540 to Ch. 6+200) & (GMLR Connector Chainage: from Ch. 0+000 to Ch. 4+460)	2023_ MCGM_930190_1	Class I (A) and above	25,00,00,000	48 months (including monsoon)	25,000 + 18% GST
3	Package C	From Mindspace Malad to Charkop - North Bound Tunnel (Chainage: from Ch. 6+200 To Ch. 10+100)	2023_ MCGM_930191_1	Class I (A) and above	25,00,00,000	48 months (including monsoon)	25,000 + 18% GST
4	Package D	From Charkop to Mindspace Malad - South Bound Tunnel (Chainage: from Ch. 11+000 to Ch. 7+100)	2023_ MCGM_930193_1	Class I (A) and above	25,00,00,000	48 months (including monsoon)	25,000 + 18% GST
5	Package E	From Charkop to Gorai (Chainage from Ch. 11+000 To Ch. 14+780)	2023_ MCGM_930194_1	Class I (A) and above	25,00,00,000	48 months (including monsoon)	25,000 + 18% GST
6	Package F	From Gorai to Dahisar (Chainage - from Ch. 14+780 To Ch. 18+470)	2023_ MCGM_930196_1	Class I (A) and above	25,00,00,000	48 months (including monsoon)	25,000 + 18% GST

Date of Issue of Tender (Start Date)	7th August 2023 16:00 Hrs.
Pre-Bid Conference	11th August 2023 15:00 Hrs. (At the Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, Office of Additional Commissioner (Projects), Head Office, Annexue Building, BMC)
Last Date and Time for Sale of e-Tender	11th September 2023 16:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of uploading document in e- Packet 'A', and technical submission in e- Packet 'B'	11th September 2023 17:00 Hrs.
End Date & Time of entire submission uploading with Commercial Proposal, e-Packet 'C'	11th September 2023 17:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of e- Packet 'A' & Technical e-Packet 'B'	13th September 2023 11:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of opening of e-Tender, e-Packet 'C'	20th September 2023 11:00 Hrs. (In the Office of Chief Engineer (Bridges), Worli)
Contact e-mail	che.br@mcgm.gov.in

The tender copy can be downloaded from the Procurement Portal of Government of Maharashtra (https://mahatenders.gov.in).

PRO/1196/ADV/2023-24
Avoid self medication

Sd/-04.08 .2023
Chief Engineer (Bridges)

Rane Holdings Q1 net declines 41% to ₹12 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Rane Holdings Ltd.'s consolidated net profit for the June quarter contracted 41% from the year-earlier period to ₹12 crore.

The net profit was down due to an exceptional expense of about ₹20 crore towards warranty provision and VRS in the subsidiary companies, the holding company of Rane Group said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations increased 9% to ₹894 crore.

EBITDA margin rose 195 bps to 9% due to lower material cost and improved operational performance.

Wipro ups the ante to expand food business

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Wipro Consumer Care & Lighting is set to go bullish on the food space and, to foster innovation in the food business, the firm opened a cutting-edge research and innovation centre here on Friday.

The centre comprises a sensory lab, research station and a state-of-the-art kitchen run by a team of food scientists, researchers, chefs, and tech experts. The facility would focus on creating and developing new and innovative food products starting in the snacks category, the company said.

The research and innovation centre would also collaborate with local universities, research institutions, and technology partners to leverage the latest advancements in the food industry, it added.

"The establishment of this state-of-the-art food research and innovation centre reaffirms our dedication to delivering high-quality and innovative food products to consumers," Vineet Agrawal, CEO, Wipro Consumer Care & Lighting said in a release.

END OF INNINGS

England top-order batter Hales hangs up his boots

England batter Alex Hales announced his retirement from international cricket on Friday. The powerful top-order player represented England in 156 matches across all Tests, ODIs and T20Is. Hales, a white-ball specialist, scored 2,419 runs in 67 ODI innings and 2,074 runs in 75 T20Is.

PENALISED

ICC fines WI, India for slow over-rate in first T20I

India and West Indies have been fined for maintaining a slow over-rate in the first T20I of the five-match series at Tarouba, Trinidad. While India was fined 5% of its match fee for falling one over short of the minimum over-rate on Thursday night, West Indies has been docked 10% for falling two overs short.

STIFF CHALLENGE

Crawley keen to test 'Bazball' approach in India next year

England's swashbuckling opener Zak Crawley said the next year's series in India offers his team "an amazing opportunity" to test 'Bazball' in different conditions. India will host England for a five-match Test series starting on Jan. 25, 2024. The Test series will be played at Hyderabad, Vizag, Rajkot, Ranchi, and Dharamsala.

EARLY SIGNS

Karim reveals he first saw Dhoni's brilliance when he played for Bihar

Former India cricketer Syed Saba Karim recalled how he became familiar with M.S. Dhoni's skillsets after becoming a selector for Bihar in the Ranji Trophy. "The first time I saw Dhoni, it was his second year in the Ranji Trophy. I remember he had that brilliance, playing big lofted shots to a spinner or a pace bowler," Karim said.

Harmanpreet saves India's blushes; Japan proves equal

Lack of cohesion and most of the players being off-position let the hosts down on a day when they wasted as many as 15 penalty corners of the 16 received

ACT HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
CHENNAI

Saviour: Harmanpreet celebrates the equaliser, but the winner proved elusive for India. M. VEDHAN

India dominated the possession, controlled the game, earned a bagful of chances and wasted them equally quickly to split points with Japan with a 1-1 draw in the Asian Champions Trophy hockey on Friday in a game that raises more questions on its preparations ahead of the big-ticket Asian Games than ever.

It was a case of almost the entire team having an off day. The players kept entering the circle and kept hitting wide or over. They kept earning penalty corners – India had a total of 16 PCs through the match –- and were profligate enough to waste 15 of them. The first four were earned back-to-back in the 5th minute itself as India, hoping to go up early, went on an all-out attack. They kept pushing hard, barely allowing Japan any space to mount any offence.

But the lack of cohesion and most of the players being off-position let the team down. The seniors in the forward line – Akashdeep Singh, Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh – repeatedly faltered. Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma and Sumit worked hard to keep the feeder lines open and even Varun Kumar and Jugraj Singh played upfront, but to no avail.

To their credit, the Japanese did not lose their defensive structure. They stayed close, not allowing the forwards any space to take direct shots. Not that the Indians were trying too hard – the focus seemed to be solely on creating PCs, barring one shot in the 17th minute when Akashdeep tried to shoot from the edge of circle but hit straight to the goalkeeper. The Japanese runners denied India repeatedly and kept looking for chances to break through. They finally did with two PCs – and converted the second in the 28th minute to take the lead and stun the crowd and the Indian team.

Harmanpreet finally got one, in the 43rd minute, to save India's blushes. But the questions remain.

Earlier, Malaysia made short work of China with a 5-1 win as the Chinese, despite taking a surprise early lead, were unable to plug their defensive gaps.

In the day's first match, Pakistan earned its first points after a 1-1 draw with Korea. Pakistan scored first, Abdul Hannan Shahid slapping in Abdul Rana's cross. With both teams missing their chances, it required a penalty stroke from Jihun Yang for the defending champion to level.

The results: Pakistan 1 (Abdul Hannan Shahid) drew with Korea 1 (Jihun Yang); Malaysia 5 (Abu Kamal Azrai 2, Faizal Saari, Firhan Ashari, Najmi Jazlan) bt China 1 (Chongcong Chen); Japan 1 (Ken Nagayoshi) drew with India 1 (Harmanpreet Singh).

Abdul Hanan's leap from teenage star to senior side

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Among the big boys: Abdul, right, got into the senior side after rich performances at the junior level. M. VEDHAN

However poor the performance of the Pakistan men's National hockey team has been in major international competitions for nearly a decade or so, it has had a relatively steady flow of young and enterprising juniors into the senior team.

In the present 20-member Pakistan squad taking part in the Asian Champions Trophy here, there are 13 players in their early to mid-20s and six in their teens.

Such is the terrain of Pakistan hockey that it produces raw, uncut talent in abundance.

One such find has been Abdul Hanan Shahid, a 17-year-old forward from Lahore. He has scored an impressive 10 goals in 21-odd appearances for the senior National team. He has also struck nine times in 10 matches at the juniors.

In March this year, Abdul received the Emerging Player of Asia award from FIH president Tayyab Ikram. Abdul was outstanding in the 2023 Junior Asia Cup where Pakistan finished runner-up to India as well. He also won the best player award in the event.

Hockey runs in Shahid's genes. His grandfather's brother Afzal Manna was a silver medallist in the 1964 Olympics and was the first member of the family to don the green jersey.

Ten players from Abdul Shahid's family – Afzal Manna, Ghulam Ghaus, Azfar Yaqoob, Murtaza Yaqoob, Mohammad Yaqoob, Sarwar Jamshed, Anwar Jamshed, Zahid Afzal, Mujahid Afzal, Mohammad Shahid – have played international hockey in some form or other.

"My family has had 11 internationals who have served the National teams. My father (Mohammed Shahid, junior Pakistan) and my extended families were all my inspirations. I started playing by watching them play," he told *The Hindu*.

Smooth transition

The transition from juniors to seniors is considered a difficult phase for most but Adbul was fortunate to find a mentor in Seigfried Aikman, the then head coach of the Pakistan men's team.

"I was finding it difficult. The coach assuaged my fears and groomed me. He didn't change my game. The best thing was he believed in my qualities and allowed me to flower in my qualities while suggesting a few changes here and there. He wanted us to follow a plan and not do extra things," said Abdul. He also credited present coach Rehan Butt for being an icon and motivating him.

Abdul said Pakistan not being able to qualify for two successive Olympics (2016 & '20) was a huge setback for the country. "Not qualifying for the Olympics was a disappointment for us and our fans. We will do well in the Asian Champions Trophy and the Hangzhou Asian Games," he added.

Mary takes out fourth seed Kateryna

CHESS WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

Finally, the perseverance of Mary Ann Gomes paid off as fourth seed Kateryna Lagno erred at the point of no return and exited from the second round of the FIDE Women's World Cup chess at Baku, Azerbaijan, on Friday. The match seemed to be heading for a deadlock after Mary let her famed rival off the hook in the second game.

This paved the way for Mary to join compatriots K. Humpy, D. Harika, R.Vaishali and Divya Deshpande in Saturday's third round.

Karthik Venkataraman ran second seed Hikaru Nakamura close. He saved the first game in 142 moves and chose not to draw in the second game by repeating the moves, but soon erred in judgement to lose. Arjun Erigaisi ended the sequence of draws against Sergei Azarov by winning the sixth game. Vidit Gujrathi kept Dimitrios Mastrovasilis at bay in the seventh game.

The results (involving Indians): Round Two (tie-break): Open: Vidit Gujrathi (2719) bt Dimitrios Mastrovasilis (Gre, 2587) 4.5-3.5; Arjun Erigaisi (2710) bt Sergei Azarov (FIDE, 2589) 3.5-2.5; Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 2787) bt Karthik Venkataraman (2565) 2.5-1.5. **Women:** Mary Ann Gomes (2326) bt Kateryna Lagno (FIDE, 2552) 2.5-1.5.

No concerns around long tail: Arshdeep

INDIA IN WEST INDIES

Press Trust of India
TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)

Holder. AFP

Left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh brushed aside concerns around India's long tail after their shock loss in the first T20I against the West Indies, saying such things are only discussed after a defeat.

The list of specialist batters ended with Sanju Samson at No. 6 in the first game of the five-match series, which India lost by four runs.

"Not really," said Arshdeep when asked about the concerns around the batting order that has Axar Patel, a left-arm spinner who has vastly improved with bat in recent times, at No. 7.

"These kind of things always comes after the end of the match. The playing XI we fielded, we were confident that we would win the match. We always back our playing XI whether it has six bowlers or nine. It doesn't matter at all," he added.

Arshdeep, who conceded four wides in the penultimate over of the West Indies innings, said the Indian team will "review" the loss.

West Indies all-rounder Jason Holder said, "It (16th over, a wicket maiden) was the turning point based on the fact that the game was coming down very close. They had set batters and we had to stay in the game. The guys really stuck together, it was a total team effort. The conditions played in the favour of the bowlers. We got early wickets, which is really important."

Holder added, I was happy that I stuck with my plans. I wanted to make them work hard for their runs, didn't want to give any free runs."

India makes history at the World archery championships

Sports Bureau

One for the album: Jyothi Surekha, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami after their gold-medal winning effort. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The trio of Jyothi Surekha, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur made history when they helped India record a convincing 235-229 victory over the top-ranked Mexico in the compound women's team final. With this win India clinched its first ever gold medal in the World archery championships in Berlin on Friday.

Under the calming influence of Italian foreign coach Sergio Pagni, a two-time Worlds team gold winner, the second-placed Indian side, featuring an ideal mix of youth and experience, shot consistently to win all four ends (59-57, 59-58, 59-57, 58-57) and secure the title.

The Indians maintained their composure to take a two-point lead in the opening end and gradually increased it to approach the final end with a cushion of five points and won the match comfortably by six points.

Jyothi Surekha, Aditi and Parneet scored 19 tens, while their rivals, Dafne Quintero, Ana Sofia Hernandez Jeon and Andrea Becerra, managed 14.

"We were confident of winning this match. We just focused on the process," said 17-year-old Aditi, the current under-18 World individual and team champion.

"Despite the noise from the stands, we did not get distracted and focused on our shooting," said 18-year-old Parneet, a 2021 World under-18 and a 2023 World under-21 team champion.

"We are delighted to win the country's first ever gold. We want to win many more gold medals," said 27-year-old Jyothi Surekha.

Jyothi Surekha had claimed three silver medals (women's individual and team events and mixed team) in the previous edition in Yankton in 2021, two bronze (women's team and individual) in Den Bosch in 2019 and a silver (women's team) in Mexico City in 2017.

After receiving a first-round bye, India beat Turkey, Chinese Taipei and Colombia to book a berth in the final.

Indian archers, who have bagged World under-21 and under-18 titles, had never won a World crown at the elite level.

The result: Team: Compound: Women: Final: India (V. Jyothi Surekha, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur) bt Mexico (Dafne Quintero, Ana Sofia Hernandez Jeon, Andrea Becerra) 235-229.

Bronze for Jyothi Yarraji and Amlan Borgohain

VARSITY GAMES

Sports Bureau

Amlan Borgohain. FILE PHOTO

Jyothi Yarraji. FILE PHOTO

Asian champion Jyothi Yarraji broke her women's 100m hurdles National record while taking a fighting bronze at the World University Games in Chengdu, China, on Friday night.

A little later, national record holder Amlan Borgohain made it a memorable day for India by picking the men's 200m bronze with a season-best 20.55s.

Jyothi, the first Indian woman to win a sprint hurdles gold at the Asian Championship in Bangkok recently, also came very close to 2024 Paris Olympics entry standard (12.77s) while clocking 12.78s.

Slovakia's Viktoria Forster took the gold while China's Wu Yanni, who was disqualified for the false start at the Asians, took silver and Jyothi put up a strong fight over the last three hurdles for her medal.

Both Jyothi and Amlan are coached by James Hillier at the Reliance Foundation and their medals are the country's first by a female hurdler and a male sprinter at the Universiade.

Meanwhile Ajay Kumar produced a personal best 65.99m in the men's hammer throw and finished 11th while Sathya Tamilarasan was seventh in women's pole vault with 3.60m. Susmita Tigga was 13th in the women's 3000m steeple chase while her teammate Bhagyashree Lahanu Navale could not finish the event.

Vikrant Malik (71.15m) and Anuj Kalera (69.49) entered the men's javelin throw final after the qualification round.

The results (gold medallists and Indian performances in finals): Men: 200m: 1. Tsebo Matsoso (RSA) 20.36s, 3. Amlan Borgohain (Ind) 20.55. **400m hurdles:** 1. Ming-Yang Peng (Tpe) 48.62s, **Hammer throw:** 1. Qi Wang (Chn) 73.63m, 11. Ajay Kumar (Ind) 65.99. **Women: 200m:** 1. Nikola Horowska (Pol) 23.00s. **100m hurdles:** 1. Viktoria Forster (Slo) 12.72s, 3. Jyothi Yarraji (Ind) 12.78 Natl record, OR own 12.82, 2022. **3000m steeple chase:** 1. Cara Patricia (Aus) 9:46.02s; 13. Susmita Tigga (Ind) 11:10.77; Bhagyashree Lahanu Navale (Ind) DNF. **Pole vault:** 1. Angelicaz Moser (Swi) 4.62m; 7. Sathya Tamilarasan (Ind) 3.60; Sindhushree Ganesha (Ind) NM.

INBRIEF

Andy Flower to coach Royal Challengers Bangalore

Former Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower has been appointed as the head coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), the franchise announced on Friday. Flower has coached international and franchise cricket teams, and has won trophies across leagues. He went on to become the coach of the England men's team. Flower enjoyed a successful playing career as a wicketkeeper-batter, with a batting average of 51.54 and 12 hundreds in 63 Tests. RCB will not renew the contract of director of cricket operations Mike Hesson and head coach Sanjay Bangar. RCB, yet to win an IPL trophy, failed to make the playoff rounds in the 2023 IPL.

Stirling to lead Ireland for India T20Is

Cricket Ireland on Friday named a 15-player squad that will face India in a three-match T20I series between Aug. 18 and 23 at Malahide. Ireland will welcome India for a three-match T20I series set to be played in Malahide between August 18-23.

The teams: India: Jasprit Bumrah (Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad (Vice-capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Ravi Bishnoi, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar and Avesh Khan.
Ireland: Paul Stirling (Capt.), Andrew Balbirnie, Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Fionn Hand, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Theo van Woerkom, Ben White and Craig Young.

Pramod, Sukant start four tournament with wins

Ace shuttler Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam started their four Nations Para Badminton International tournament with comfortable wins. Pramod Bhagat won in all three categories while Sukant registered a win in singles. Pramod defeated Peru's Pedro Pablo De Vinatea in straight games (21-4, 21-13). In men's doubles the world No. 1 pair of Pramod and Sukant defeated India's Dillaswar Rao Gadela and Subhrajeet Maharana (21-14, 23-21).

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Women's World Cup: SS Select 1 FanCode, 10.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
Durand Cup: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.45 p.m.

Mouth-watering fixtures beckon as knockouts begin

Switzerland will take on Spain in the first last-16 match; Group C topper Japan meets Norway in a heavyweight clash of former world champions

WOMEN'S WC

Reuters
AUCKLAND

As the Women's World Cup enters the business stage when the last 16 kicks off on Saturday, the surprises and shocks in the group stage have thrown up some mouth-watering fixtures, starting with the clash of former champions Norway and Japan.

There is a sense that the expanded 32-team format has improved the tournament after heavyweights Germany, Canada, Brazil and China were knocked out while minnows like Morocco and Jamaica advanced for the first time.

While Japan came through its group unscathed, Norway lost to co-hosts New Zealand in the tournament opener while a public spat threatened to derail its campaign before it eventually qualified.

"You can see the level of the World Cup is rising, so the women's game is growing fast," Norway coach Hege Riise told reporters.

"Everyone said it was an easy group, we knew it wasn't. "

Japan coach Futoshi Ikeda praised the teamwork that saw his team keep three clean sheets in three wins to advance.

"Each player is performing their role. They're not only performing to their own capacity, but they are also working as a unit," he said. Switzerland advanced with two goalless draws after a 2-0 win in the opener and coach Inka Grings has stressed on her team needing to be more assertive in attack when they play Spain.

"We have really understood that message and we have helped to convey that with videos," Grings said.

"Spain has very strong players... We look at them as a compact and strong team."

All in readiness: Japan will be confident coming into the knockouts after not losing any points in the group stage. REUTERS

Abhiram to helm state cricket selection committee

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Karnataka all-rounder J. Abhiram was chosen as the head of the senior, U-19 and U-16 State cricket selection committees on Friday.

The 63-year-old, who has played 46 First Class matches for Karnataka, was the most recently vice-president at the Karnataka State Cricket Association (2019-22). He will take over from the committee led by Fazal Khaleel.

The senior women's selection committee will be helmed by former spinner Sunitha Ananthakrishnan, while the junior unit will be chaired by S. Sharmila.

Men: Senior: J. Abhiram (Chairman), K.L. Aswath, C. Raghu, Kamal Tandon;

U-19 & U-16: J. Abhiram (Chairman), M.V. Prashanth, Udit B. Patel, K.M. Aiyappa, Raghotham Navali.

Women: Senior: Sunitha Ananthakrishnan (Chairman), Aruna Reddy, Dr. Nivedita Reshame, Muktha Algeri;

Junior: S. Sharmila (Chairman), Ranjini Kumar, Saba Siddique, Meena Kumari.

SNAPSHOTS

Prannoy to meet Rajawat in semis

SYDNEY: P.V. Sindhu bowed out but H.S. Prannoy and young Priyanshu Rajawat notched up contrasting wins to set up an enticing all-Indian men's singles semifinal clash in the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament on Friday.
The results (quarterfinals):
Men: Priyanshu Rajawat bt K. Srikanth 21-13, 21-8; H.S. Prannoy bt Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Ina) 16-21, 21-17, 21-14;
Women: P.V. Sindhu lost to Beiwen Zhang (USA) 2-21, 17-21.

Pole position for Rajiv and Vignesh

CHENNAI: Rajiv Sethu and Vignesh Goud, both looking to extend their unbeaten run, qualified for pole position in their respective categories as the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2023 commenced at the Madras International Circuit (MIC) on Friday.
The results (qualifying, pole position): National Championship – Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open: 1. Rajiv Sethu (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) 01:50.457s.

Rajiv... all smiles.

Novice (Stock 165cc): 1. Vignesh Goud (Race'ists Motorcycle Club) 02:08.750.

Support Event – Stock 301-400cc (Novice): 1. S. Rohit Lad (Pvt) 02:04.718.

Petronas TVS One-Make Championship: Open (RR 310): 1. C. Senthilkumar 01:54.221.

Girls (Apache RTR 200): 1. Nadine Faith Balaji 02:14.670.

Silver for Martina

NEW DELHI: Martina Devi Maibam lifted a total of 218kg to clinch silver in the +81kg youth category on the penultimate day of the Asian Youth and Junior weightlifting championships on Friday.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

It's Coles vs Rajajinagar Cricketers

Half-centuries from Melu Kranthi Kumar (75) and K.S. Lankesh (70 n.o.) helped Coles CC defeat Sir Syed Cricketers by four wickets and enter the final of the KSCA T20 tournament. In the summit clash on Saturday, Coles will take on Rajajinagar Cricketers, which overcame Social Cricketers by five wickets.

The scores (semifinals): Sir Syed Cricketers 183/5 in 20 overs (A. Rohan Patil 26, S.J. Nikin Jose 77 n.o., Tanay Valmik 35 n.o.) lost to Coles 185/6 in 18.3 overs (Melu Kranthi Kumar 75, K.S. Lankesh 70 n.o., L.R. Kumar 4/33).

Social Cricketers 169/5 in 20 overs (Bharath Dhuri 72 n.o., S. Aadarsh Prajwal 25) lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 170/5 in 18.5 overs (Rohan Kadam 57, C. Sanjay Ashwin 51 n.o., Anmol Mathur 3/21).

Dhruv guides Vijaya CC to final

Dhruv Krishnan top-scored with an unbeaten 102 as Vijaya CC beat Vultures CC by eight wickets to enter the final of the KSCA (Group I) under-16 inter-club tournament. On Sunday, it will meet Swastic Union CC (2), which got past Bangalore SC by a 49-run margin.

The scores (semifinals): Swastic Union (2) 245 in 45 overs (Talha Sheriff 67, R. Shiv 25, Rehan Mohammed 66, N.S. Shaurya 3/42) bt Bangalore SC 196 in 38.4 overs (S.J. Aadharsh 55, Vijay Maller 28, M. Assad 3/26, R. Shiv 3/37, J. Sukruth 3/22).

Vultures 194/9 in 50 overs (N. Bhuvan Gowda 26, Tejas Reddy 42, Chirayu Reddy 58, Medhas Mukund 25 n.o.) lost to Vijaya 197/2 in 42.1 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 102 n.o., Shaurya Manish 41 n.o.).

Massive win for Vidyashilp Academy

Vidyashilp Academy blanked The Frank Anthony Public School 10-0 in the Fr. Eric Vaz Memorial under-14 hockey tournament on Friday.

The results: Chinmaya Vidyalaya 4 (Prabas 23, M.D. Ghouse 26, Sachiroop 30, 37) bt St. Joseph's BHS 3 (Joel Paul 9, 18, 36); Vidyashilp Academy 10 (Ishanth A. Gowda 3, 7, Naman Nair 4, 17, Etaan Piers 12, 25, Ekansh Sharma 15, 18, Vedanth Parvatam 28, Kavan Vasantharaj 39) bt The Frank Anthony Public School 0.

Blue Wing pips Benson

Blue Wing FC edged out Benson FC 3-2 in the KSFA Bangalore North & South C-division league here on Friday.

The results: Blue Wing FC 3 bt Benson FC 2; Mangalore 7 bt Victoria 1; BPSS FC 1 drew with Gopalan FC 1.

Parthib 'tricks for NorthEast United FC

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau

Host NorthEast United FC sailed on Parthib Gogoi's hat-trick to score a dominant 4-0 win against neighbouring rival Shillong Lajong FC in the opening Group D league match of the 132nd Durand Cup at Guwahati, on Friday.

French winger Romain Phillipoteaux completed the tally for the home side by scoring a penalty in the opening half.

The NEUFC found the lead in the 26th minute when Gogoi made the most of a rebound that came off the Lajong goalkeeper Neithovilie Chalieu.

That lead was doubled when Philippoteaux scored from the spot in the 35th minute after he was brought down inside the NEUFC box.

Parthib Gogoi. FILE PHOTO

Gogoi made it 3-0 in the 65th minute when he found the target off a Gani Nigam assist and completed his hat-trick in the 70th minute.

The result: NorthEast United FC 4 (Parthib Gogoi 26, 65, 70, Romain Phillipoteaux 35-pen) bt Shillong Lajong FC 0.

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